The Story of the Sigma Seven Sit-In

The First Rescue at an Abortion Facility

It's the summer of 1974, just a year after the US Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized all induced abortion across the country up to fetal viability. At the time, viability was considered to be around 28 weeks gestation (26 weeks fetal age). About ten years before, in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights Movement to march on Selma, Alabama. Quaker peace activist Charles Fager studied the nonviolent direct action (NVDA) tactics utilized by the movement and had recently written a book about them when he was invited to give a speech at the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition conference. The NYPLC was similar to today's Consistent Life Ethic groups, and leaned liberal while remaining staunchly pro-life. This was the perfect opportunity for Fager to plant an idea: in the same way that NVDA exposed the violence of racial segregation in the American south, pro-lifers should use NVDA to expose the violence of abortion in the American clinics. Fager suggested that nonviolent sit-ins be performed by pro-lifers within abortion facilities. Inspired, NYPLC president Tom Mooney and his wife Chris began to plan. "There was really nothing happening legislatively. It really looked like abortion was here to stay. People were becoming desperate for some action," Chris recalled.

The Mooneys charged their young "intern", Burke Balch (who, at the time, identified as agnostic/atheist,) with doing research on civil disobedience. Burke scoured the Library of Congress until he found Martin Oppenheimer and George Lakey's *A Manual for Direct Action*, a Quaker tract on how to do NVDA. From this, the organizers developed a three-page logistical plan, stressing principles including "WE MUST KEEP OUR COOL!" Chris Mooney, along with other women such as Jeannette Reinecker and Joli Fleming, founded Women Against Massacre and Brutality (WOMB), and began to host training sessions over the summer of 1975 for a sit-in. At one of the first sessions, the Mooneys handed out a survey which included the question, "How far would you go to save a life?" Jeannette recalled that it was this question that made her willing to risk criminal prosecution. From there, the women practiced role-plays of different scenarios, such as how to go limp while being arrested. Chris and Joli in particular drew from their experience protesting Vietnam during their antiwar

days in college to train the other women. The group agreed that only women should participate in the sit-in portion of the demonstration, to break the stereotypes about men trying to control women's bodies. They also agreed to focus on secular messaging, and developed literature to hand out to the public within a human rights framework. They hoped to "show the media and the public that the movement is not as dead as they think."

On August 2nd, 1975, around 9 AM, a woman walked into the Sigma Reproductive Health Center at 11119 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Maryland to ask about appointments. After confirming that the facility was open, she and the protesters occupied the inside and outside. The choice of Sigma was calculated: a group of picketers had been frequenting the clinic for the past year, led by George Yourishin, so the organizers were familiar with it. A group of women and young ladies sat down in the waiting room of suite 410 – according to the official police report, the group was around fourteen total, but a conflicting account from Prince George's County Action for Human Life (AHL) claims there were only twelve. Jeannette recalls many girls striding into the room in platform shoes, while a picture from the event captures ostensibly Chris on bare feet like a classic hippie. They began to sing softly, "you've got their whole lives in their hands", setting the tone for the intervention. Later, to the tune of the Civil Rights Movement song "We Shall Overcome", they sang, "your child needs your love…" According to AHL, eight of the women were mothers, and three carried their infant babies into the facility with them. Meanwhile, a group of protesters – including regular picketers of the facility, husbands of the women sitting-in, and women who did not go inside – began to hold up signs, hand out fliers, and sidewalk counsel to the people entering the abortion facility. One of their signs read "National Youth Pro-Life Coalition: Love and Let Live." Others read "Civil Rights for Babies" and "Unborn Women Have Rights Too".

Some of the abortion facility staff reacted calmly, while others responded more aggressively, climbing over furniture to get past the women. Lisa Donohoo recalls one of the staff members posing as a clinic patron and freaking out at them in front of the media. Ann Schutt, the designated police liaison for the group, spoke to officer John Meiklejohn in the waiting room. She told him that they were protesting the existence of the center, and that they wanted to speak with the center administrator and would not leave until she answered their questions concerning abortions. The facility was owned by Gail Francis, and the administrator on duty was Ethel Naugle. Naugle said she'd only meet with two of the women in her office if the rest of

the group left the suite; the ladies declined this offer, stating it did not suit their needs, and began chanting again. At 10:30 AM, according to the police report, six of the women left the facility, taking one of the infants with them, leaving eight ladies behind. Meicklejohn then asked Ann what the group's goals were, and she stated "to shut down the health center and completely do away with abortions."

It was then that the remaining women decided to escalate. They moved from the waiting room to the narrow hallway in front of the suite and linked arms, blocking the entrance entirely. They tried to speak to any patron who attempted to breach their blockade. Around noon, fed up, Naugle announced she would prosecute the eight ladies, enabling the police to begin their protocols for arrests. At 12:35 Naugle declared the ladies to be trespassing. At 12:45 Meicklejohn then advised the ladies that they would be prosecuted if they did not leave the premises, and a young lady who refused to give her name to the officer got up and left. Based on pictures of the women in the hallway, we believe this young lady was Jeanne Miller, a minor. The remaining ladies stated that they refused to leave and would have to be carried out as they would not move. These ladies were identified as Chris Mooney, Ann Schutt, Jeannette Reinecker, Eileen Renzi, Amy Donohoo, Lisa Donohoo, and Mary Hayes. They were dragged out to the police cars, with care as two held babies, and transported to Bethesda Station, where Lisa was released to her mom as she was a minor. While this meant only the six adult women were charged with trespassing (a misdemeanor), they agreed in solidarity to call themselves "The Sigma Seven". (While many sources have referred to them as "The Sigma Six", all four demonstration participants interviewed insisted adamantly that they were "The Sigma Seven", and they are named this way in the AHL article as well.)

The protesters were pleased that the media seemed "eager to explore this new radicalism" among pro-lifers. Photos of the sit-in were featured in the Montgomery Journal, and footage of them was shown twice during that evening's news on WMAL-TV channel 7 (which became WJLA the next year.) News of the protest spread across pro-life and Catholic publications. Even their trial and conviction was covered by The Washington Post. To them, this was a success; they got abortion back in the news, proving it was not a settled issue.

On September 8th, 1975, at the Montgomery County District Courthouse, supporters of the Sigma Seven demonstrated outside with signs and placards. Inside, Gerard Mitchell, a lawyer who had taken on the case pro-bono, argued that the women had compelling necessity to their

actions: because life begins at conception, they were attempting to rescue children from violence. Judge Stanley Klaven didn't bite, and they were found guilty of trespassing and sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation. In response, Chris Mooney said she was disappointed with the decision, "because there is a large issue and that issue is that abortions are killing humans. We will continue to fight, in the courts, in the legislature, wherever possible." Little did they know that on August 2nd, 2000, 25 years after the sit-in to the day, Sigma would close its doors for good.

This wasn't the first time a sit-in had been performed against abortion; a prior sit-in took place in February 1970 at a Planned Parenthood office in Dallas, Texas, when the Sons of Thunder, lead by Michael Schwartz, disrupted the office's coordination of travel plans out of state for abortion. This also wasn't the first time a clinic had been occupied in a direct action to stop abortions; on June 6th of 1970, the Sons of Thunder, lead by Brent Bozell, "invaded" the student health clinic of George Washington University and demanded a moratorium on abortions at the university hospital. But the Sigma Seven sit-in was the first time pro-lifers ever interposed their bodies directly between pregnant people and an abortion provider in an act of radical solidarity with babies at risk of abortion; this made it the first abortion Rescue.

The Sigma Seven continued to fight abortion their entire lives, in big ways and small. The next year, on the bicentennial of the founding of the United States, WOMB performed another sit-in in Washington, DC. Chris and Joli opened up the Pregnancy Aid Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, the first of its kind. Jeannette and Chris ran as delegates for pro-life democratic presidential candidate Ellen McCormack. Chris served as the director for the Center for Life at Providence Hospital in Washington, DC. Jeannette became a social worker so she could help moms through difficult pregnancies. Eileen became a nurse and remained outspoken about the violence of abortion. Jeannette, Ann, Amy, Lisa, and Jeanne all continued to perform sit-in "Rescues". Lisa got arrested as many as eleven times. Jeanne was one of the first rescuers to serve time in jail at just age 18, and she went on to organize the first national series of sit-ins. And later, Jeanne and Burke helped found the Pro-Life Nonviolent Action Project, prompting an era of Rescue that would span a decade. These brave women didn't act to please anyone – not husbands, not religions, not parties – but out of conviction. They were willing to suffer violence upon their own bodies to save lives. Their sit-in wasn't just a moment in pro-life history; it is progressive history, it is nonviolent history, and it is women's history.

Sources

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---. Telephone interviews with Burke Balch, Jeannette Reinecker, and Lisa Donohoo, 17 June 2025.

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Researched & written by Elise Ketch, Summer 2025

C1

INCIDENT REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

1. DESCRIPTION FOR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE (VICTIM): SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
CASE NUMBER: R-82-15
2. ADDRESS: 1111 Rockville Pike Rockville Md
CITY: Rockville ZIP: 20852
CLASSIFICATION CODE: 2737
11. VICTIM'S PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR SCHOOL (ADDRESS): N/A
3. RACE: N SEX: D.O.B.:
4. PHONE: RES. 881-4700 BUS.
7. CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:
12. VICTIM'S OCCUPATION: N/A
13. NAME OF EMPLOY: N/A
14. SOLIDITY: N/A
5. CRIME: Tree Passing
6. UNIFORM: 186
8. PREMISES: TYPE OF AREA OR PREMISES: Hi-Rise office Building
10. LOCATION OF CRIME: Room 410 The Sigma Reproductive
15. VEHICLE USED BY: SUSPECT ☐ YES ☐ NO; LICENSE NO.; STATE; YEAR
16. WHEN OCCURRED: MO. DA. YR. 08-02-75 TO; HOUR: DAY: 0100 SAT
17. WHEN REPORTED: MO. DA. YR. 08-02-75; HOUR: 1700 DAY: SAT
YEAR; MAKE; BODY; COLOR(S)
18. COMPLAINANT'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE): MALONE ETHEL HALE
19. RACE-SEX-AGE: W-F 50
20. RES. PHONE: 881-4700
IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS OF VEHICLE
21. COMPLAINANT'S ADDRESS: 1117 Rockville Pike Rockville Md 20852
CITY; STATE; ZIP
22. BUS. PHONE: 881-4700

CODE: W=WITNESS P=PARENT G=GUARDIAN

	CODE	RESIDENCE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	RES. PHONE	BUS. PHONE
23. NAME: SAME AS #13	W						
24. see Narrative							
25. See Narrative							

26. INJURIES INVOLVED: ☐ YES ☐ NO
27. EXTENT OF INJURIES (SEE CODE →): ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C N/A
A) BLEEDING WOUND; OR HAD TO BE CARRIED FROM SCENE
B) OTHER VISIBLE INJURY (BRUISES, ABRASIONS, SWELLING)
C) NO VISIBLE INJURY, BUT COMPLAINT OF PAIN, UNCONSCIOUSNESS

28. APPARENT CAUSE: N/A
29. REMOVED BY: N/A
30. TAKEN TO: N/A
31. TREATED BY: N/A
32. WAS VICTIM TAKEN TO HOSPITAL: ☐ YES ☐ NO N/A
33. VICTIM'S CONDITION: ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ SERIOUS ☐ CRITICAL N/A
34. DRUG FOUND: ☐ YES ☐ NO
DRUG II: ☐ YES ☐ NO

PROPERTY (CHECK IF APPLICABLE): ☐ STOLEN ☐ RECOVERED ☐ EVIDENCE
35. TYPE OF PROPERTY: N/A
36. VALUE: N/A
37. PROPERTY IN CUSTODY: ☐ YES ☐ NO N/A
38. PROPERTY TURNED OVER TO: N/A
DATE
39. PROPERTY DISPOSITION: N/A
DATE

ITEM NO.
40. NARRATIVE (1.) CONTINUATION OF ABOVE ITEMS (INDICATE ITEM NUMBER AT LEFT)
(2.) IF ARRESTED, INCLUDE NAME(S) AND ARREST NUMBER(S) OF PERSON(S) ARRESTED (3.) NOTE PROPERTY SLIP CONTROL NUMBER(S)

3 20850
10 Health Center

Arrested: 1. HAYES, MARY EVA W/F 24 5'6" 115 blk/haz

2. DONOHOO, ANN (Mrs.) W/F 28 5'3" 115 brn/gr

41. STATUS: ☐ OPEN CLOSED BY: ☐ ARREST ☐ EXCEPTION ☐ UNFOUNDED
42. DISPOSITION OF GUN: NO.
43. DATE: MO. DA. YR. 08-02-75
44. APPROVED BY:
45. RECOMMENDED ACTION: A
TOP NUMBER: 8 5 8 2 1 5

UCR FORM NO. 102

RECORDS COPY

C2

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

1. VICTIM/PERSON/PROPERTY OR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SILVER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
2. ADDRESS: 1119 Rockville Pike Rockville Md. 20852
3. CASE NO.: 83-38215
4. CLASSIFICATION: 2737

ITEM NO.	NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	STL	REC	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.
	3. REINECKER, JEANNETTE MARIE				
	W/F 26 5'5" 110 BR/BR				
	4. RENZI, EILEEN ELIZABETH				
	W/F 19 5'5" 104 BR/GR				
	5. MOORES, CHRISTINE LYTLE				
	W/F 28 5'4" 120 BR/BR				
	6. SCHUTT, ANN ELIZABETH				
	W/F 35 5'4" 140 BR/Blue				
	7. DONOHOO, LISA MARIE				
	W/F 17 5'1" 115 BR/Blue				

83-38215

7. DISTRIBUTION: EXTRA COPIES — DET. — PM — MC — PW — GA — DET. — II — P — S — W/G — INT — JUV — SA — PIC — TM — OTHER

8. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.: Cpl. J. McClymonds 203
INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.

9. DATE: 08-03-83
11. REPORT REVIEW

10. APPROVED BY: Cpl. Frontczak
12. RECORDS USE ONLY

M.C.P. FORM NO. 107

RECORDS COPY

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

1. VICTIM/PERSON/FIRM FOR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
2. INCIDENT NUMBER: 833825
3. ADDRESS: 1119 Rockville Pike Rockville Md 20850
4. CLASSIFICATION: 2737
5. PAGE: 3 OF 9 PAGES

ITEM NO.	7. NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	CPL	REC	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.

The writing officer received a Radio call for the disorderly subjects at the SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER 1119 Rockville Pike Rockville Md 20850 #410. Upon arrival on the scene the writing officer noticed approx 13 white females in age range of 20 to 30, seated on the floor inside suite 410 At this time these women were singing and staging a protest against abortions. Three of the women had small babies under the age of one, Suite 410 is the Sigma Reproductive Health Center which is an Abortion Clinic. The writing officer spoke with Arrested subject #6 SHUTT who was the spokeswoman for the group. SHUTT stated that the group of ladies and babies were at the Health Center to protest against the existance of the Health Center and to speak with the Center Administrator DINGLE. SHUTT futher stated that they would not leave the Center until DINGLE answered questions concerning Abortions. The writing officer left

PAGE NO.

8. DISTRIBUTION	9. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.	9. DATE	10. APPROVED BY	12. RECORDS USE ONLY
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DET. — PD — PE — PW — GA; DST. — RI — II — S — W/C; INT — JUV — SA — MIL — FM; OTHER	INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.	11. REPORT REVIEW		

MCP. FORM NO. 107

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C4

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

1. VICTIM/PERSON/FIRM FOR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
2. ADDRESS: 11119 ROCKVILLE PIKE ROCKVILLE, MD 20852
3. CASE NUMBER: B53K215
4. CLASSIFICATION: 2737

5. PAGE 11 OF 9 PAGES

ITEM NO.	NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	CTL	REC	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.

spoke with NAUGLE who stated she would agree to meet with two of the ladies in her office only if the rest of the group would leave the office. SCHUTT, and her group of Ladies stated (this) did not suit their needs and they continued to sing and chant songs and disrupt the normal business affairs of the clinic. Many different times Mrs. NAUGLE and the waiting officer asked the group of Ladies to leave the center. The ladies were advised that if they did not leave they may be subject to arrest for Trespassing. The waiting officer then advised the group of ladies exactly what procedures would be followed if they were arrested. Again the ladies REFUSED to leave. Mrs NAUGLE requested that the police make the arrests, place the charges and remove the group of ladies from the Health center at once. At this time the waiting officer advised Sgt. Crockett 202 and Lt.

B53K215

7. DISTRIBUTION: CATHA COPIES: 9 | DIST: — IN — PE — DW — GA; OST: — R — U — S — W/C; INT — JUV — SA — HC — FM; OTHER:
8. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.: CPL S. MEIKLEJOHN 293
9. DATE: 05-02-75
10. APPROVED BY: CPL Frontek
INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.
11. REPORT REVIEW
12. RECORDS USE ONLY

MCP FORM NO. 107

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C5

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County/Maryland
Department of Police

5. VICTIM/PERSON(S) AND/OR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SIGNA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
7. ADDRESS: #410 11119 ROCKVILLE PIKE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

6. CASE NUMBER: B53K15
8. CLASSIFICATION: 2737

PAGE 5 OF 9 PAGES

ITEM NO.	NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	STS	REC	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.

Baker 3d of the sit down demonstration at the Health Center. The writing officer also contacted Asst. States Attorney L. LEAR and advised him of the situation. MR. LEAR stated that he would have to contact his boss on this situation and have to recontact the writing officer. A short time later Sgt. Crockett and Lt. Baker arrived on the scene. Also at this time the writing officer again made contact with States Attorney Lear. MR LEAR stated do not make any arrests, unless Mrs. NUNGLE will prosecute and do not remove anyone from the premises unless NUNGLE will prosecute. The writing officer and Lt. Baker explained to Mrs. NUNGLE the situation at which time NUNGLE decided not to prosecute. At approx. 1030 hrs. six women left the Health Center. They took with them one of the small babies. This left ~~Eight~~ Seven women in the sit down.

B53K15 V1

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DET. — H — B — S — W/P
INT. — JUV — SA — MC — PM
OTHER:

9. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.: PFC J. MEHRE JOHN 293
INVESTIGATING OFFICER I.D.

8. DATE: 08-02-25

10. APPROVED BY: PFC Trantgal PWP

11. REPORT REVIEW

12. RECORDS USE ONLY

M.C.P. FORM NO. 167

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C6

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

5. VICTIM/PERSON/FIRM OR FROM WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE	6. CASE NUMBER
SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER	B53K21K
2. ADDRESS: #410 2 of 5	4. CLASSIFICATION
11119 ROCKVILLE PIKE ROCKVILLE MD	2737

1. PAGE 6 OF 7 PAGES

ITEM NO.	6. NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	STL	REC	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.

protest and 2 babies. At this time the writing officer questioned SCHUTT as to her groups aims and goals. SCHUTT stated that the groups name was "WOMEN OPPOSED to MASSACER and BRUTALITY and that their goals were to shut down the Health Center and completely do away with Abortions. The writing officer then learned the names of 6 of the other Ladies with one refusing to give any information. The women then changed their position from the center of Suite 410 to blocking the entrance to Suite 410. At this time they refused to move and refused to let patients in or out. Many words and arguments were exchanged between the group of Ladies and the patients. At approx 1200 hrs. Mrs. NAGLE decided to prosecute the demonstrators. The writing officer made arrangements through Lt. Baker to have officers ready for

B53K21K

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8. INVESTIGATING OFFICER/NO. Cpl J. HERLESOHN 293 — INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.

9. DATE 05-02-75.

10. APPROVED BY SPL Frontier Hill

11. REPORT REVIEW

12. RECORDS USE ONLY

M.C.P. FORM NO. 107

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C7

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

7. VICTIM/PERSON/FIRM FOR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SIGMA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CENTER
ADDRESS: #416 11119 ROCKVILLE PIKE ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

8. CR. NUMBER: 85-5215
9. CLASSIFICATION: 2737

PAGE 7 OF 9 PAGES

ITEM NO.	NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	STL	RCVD	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.

Transport. At 1235 hrs. MRS DAUGLE made an announcement to the Group of Ladies that they were trespassing and that if they did not leave they would be arrested for trespassing. At 1240 hrs. Mrs. NAUGLE again made the same remarks to the demonstrators. At 1245 hrs the writing officer then advised the demonstrators that they were trespassing and that if they did not leave the premises they would be prosecuted for trespassing. At this time the one young lady who refused to give her name earlier left. The remaining ladies stated that they Refused to leave. At this time the seven remaining ladies were placed under arrest and advised verbally of their rights by the writing officer. The ladies then stated that they would have to be carried out because they would not move. The writing officer, Lt. Baker, 201

85-5215

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7. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.: 201 L.J. MELLSTROM 293
INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.:

8. DATE: 05-02-85
11. REPORT REVIEW:

10. APPROVED BY: SGT. Frantz
12. RECORDS USE ONLY:

M.C.P. FORM NO. 107

RECORDS COPY

C8

CONTINUATION REPORT
Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

3. VICTIM'S/RESPONDENT'S FOR WHOM COMPLAINT WAS MADE: SIGMA Reproductive Health Center	4. CCR NUMBER: B 038215
5. ADDRESS: 1119 Rockville Pike Rockville Md. 20850	6. CLASSIFICATION: 2737

7. PAGE 2 OF 9 PAGES

ITEM NO.	NARRATIVE	PROPERTY VALUE	STS.	REC'D	RECORDS USE ONLY T.C.
	Sgt. Crockett, 202 Cpl. Frantzek				
	203, Off. D. Comer, 216. and				
	Off. L. Baeke 217 physically				
	had to drag the ladies down				
	the hall into the elevator and				
	then out of the building into				
	waiting police cruisers. Care.				
	was taken because of the two				
	babies and no injuries were sustained.				
	All seven Ladies were transported				
1	to the 6th. District.				
	After being charged, Dorrico, L.				
	W/F was released to her Mother Dorrico,				
	Florence. Magee applied for Bail and				
	and Commissioner C. Purtle issued				
	D.C.S. For Subject # 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.				
	These six subjects were advised of				
	their Rights by C. Purtle and				
	released.				
	Car 4 Mjr R Sigmon responded to				
	the scene and was later advised				
	of the outcome, Capt. B. Harris				
	car 11 was also on the scene.				

B 038215

12. DISTRIBUTION	13. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.	14. DATE	15. APPROVED BY
EXTRA COPIES: DET. — PR. — SE. — PW. — VA. DST. — N. — W. — VIC. DST. — JUV. — SP. — MC. — TR. OTHER	Cpl. J. Mehlbeck 273	08-09-75	Capt. of Det.
	16. INVESTIGATING OFFICER NO.	17. REPORT REVIEW	18. RECORDS USE ONLY

M.C.P. FORM NO. 102

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Rockville Clinic Becomes Focal Point in Struggle between Life and Abortion

12 Young Women Disrupt Abortion Mill; 7 Arrested.

Montgomery Journal Photo by Linda White - 7Aug75

The scene is the entrance to the SIGMA abortion clinic where a group of women sat in for five hours on Saturday, Aug. 2nd.

Early on August 2nd twelve young women walked into the SIGMA abortion clinic on Rockville Pike and sat down. They were not there for abortions. On the contrary, they came to dramatize the horrer of what our society has come to accept (even support) as routine - as a "woman's right." They began to sing softly, to the tune of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands":

You've got her whole life in your hands;
You've got his whole life in your hands;
You've got her whole life in your hands;
You've got their whole lives in your hands.

Other songs followed. Clinic personnel began to react, some calmly, some not so calmly. Abortion customers were turned away. Some left voluntarily. The police were called. The media arrived. The confrontation was complete. The singing continued (this time to the tune of "We Shall Overcome"):

Your child needs your love,
Your child needs your love,
You are one together, today.
Oh, deep in your heart, you surely must see
That you are one together today.

Eight of the twelve protesters were mothers. Three had their infant children in their arms. Consequently, the police were gentle. Family men themselves, they clearly had no desire to hassle or arrest a group of non-violent young mothers and teen-aged girls. The protesters were unanimous in their praise and respect for the way the Montgomery County police conducted themselves and handled the situation. Several of the women said their only regret arose from their sympathy for the police who were forced to perform a task which they obviously found repugnant.

Finally however, after four hours of singing and reading inside the clinic, the protesters were told by the police that they had to leave or be arrested. Five left. Seven chose to be arrested. After another hour of careful preparation by the police, and after a total of five hours inside the clinic, the "Sigma Seven," including two mothers with their babies, were carried out of the building, placed in police cars, and driven away.

At the police station the protesters were charged with trespassing (a misdemeanor) and a trial date was set for September 8, Montgomery County District Court in Bethesda. Since one of the seven is 17 years old, six will be tried.

Many pro-life people are planning to attend the trial as a demonstration of support for the goals of the women who were arrested. Some plan to carry signs and placards outside the courthouse. The trial is scheduled for 9AM on September 8th at 7359 Wisconsin Ave. in Bethesda.

What Else Is Happening At SIGMA Abortion Clinic?

In June of 1974 SIGMA abortion clinic opened "for business" on the Rockville Pike in Montgomery County. It was described as the first abortion clinic in the Maryland suburbs.

In November the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition began picketing. They were soon joined by Prince George's and Montgomery County Right to Life. The picketing has continued, regardless of weather, every Saturday since then (and some week-days in between). Maryland Right to Life noted the first year of the clinic's operation by holding a "Suburban March for Life" in front of the clinic. About 200 persons marched for three hours in 95-degree heat.

Then in January the owners of the building in which the clinic is housed brought suit to prevent the clinic from performing abortions. The building owners claimed that, as a condition of their lease, the clinic owners had agreed to preclude abortions from their list of "services." They also claimed that the persistent picketing was hurting their ability to rent other space in the building. After several court hearings the suit is still pending, and as of this writing, a trial date has yet to be set. Meanwhile, the picketing will continue.

State Pro-Life Leaders Comment on SIGMA Sit-In

Thomas F. O'HERRON, President, Maryland Right to Life, Inc.:

"I welcome the opportunity to express my profound admiration for the courage of these women and my respect for their dramatic act of conscience."

Daniel BOYLE, M.D., Chairman, Maryland Action for Human Life:

"The concept enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, which has guided us for the better part of our 200 years as a nation guarantees each person a right to life. Since January 22nd 1973 this principle has been subverted by laws of a lower order which have allowed the wholesale destruction of our unborn citizens. On Saturday, August 2nd seven women chose to honor God-given law and violate a lesser one. I commend them for their courage and dedication to principle."

A Priest's Reaction

The SIGMA protesters were arrested on a Saturday afternoon. In his Sunday sermon, a priest at St. Camillus Catholic Church in Silver Spring expressed admiration for those who took part and pride in the fact that several of the young women were members of his parish.

A Case of News Management?

More than once the WASHINGTON STAR has editorialized about government's tendency to "manage the news." Apparently the Star practices what it proscribes.

The editors of the pro-abortion paper did not consider the sit-in at the SIGMA abortion clinic of sufficient news value to report it when it happened. Nevertheless, several days later, without ever having printed an account of the incident, the Star saw fit to carry two letters that criticized the demonstrators. As of this writing, despite letters which were sent to the paper by pro-life people, not one has yet been printed.

So much for the Washington Star's concept of fairness and news management.

Pro-Life picketers at the SIGMA abortion clinic on Rockville Pike. The clinic is in the tall building, not in the medical building.

LOGISTICAL PLAN FOR AUGUST 2, 1975

To Prepare Ahead of Time

1. Press Release & handout to be written and run off. ([redacted])
2. Visual Media contacted on morning of Aug. 2 ([redacted])
3. Further research on all legal matters ([redacted])
4. Assemble non-judgmental literature to bring into clinic ([redacted]) (Life Before Birth Reprints)
5. Get camera and tape recorder to take into clinic ([redacted] - Tape recorder; [redacted] - Camera)
6. Write & run off songs, chants, etc. & organize how they are to be used.
7. Each person bringing a child, please bring necessary articles for the child's care with you - we will not be able to be running in and out of the clinic to get things.

To Be Accomplished at Training Sessions & Workshops

1. Answer all remaining questions of volunteers.
2. Assign leader, spokespeople, those who will speak to Sigma's clients, mediators, etc.
3. Practice songs & chants
4. Prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually by reaffirming our committment to "Life".
5. Outlining all contingency plans.

The exact time at which the clinic opens on Saturday is being researched this week. We know it is open by 8:00 a.m., but it may open earlier. At any rate, we want to go in immediately after it opens so that we can disrupt their entire abortion schedule for the day. You will be informed of the exact time on Friday night.

To do at home before arriving at Sigma

1. Make sure you have everything you need for yourself and your child. (diapers, bottles, food, napkins or kleenex, etc.)
2. Dress in slacks, with comfortable clothes on.
3. Try to carry as little as possible with you, but be sure to include some kind of identification. USE THE TOILET BEFORE YOU COME.

8:00 a.m. (tentative)

1. Park on one of the side streets near the building (not in parking lot).
2. All those participating in sit-in (women only) meet on the corner directly to the right of the building. Husbands who will picket in support meet across the street in the parking lot of the toy store. or boyfriends

8:15 a.m. (or when all are assembled)!

1. All women will enter the clinic waiting room area and sit down.
2. We will discuss on Monday or Tuesday whether we shall block the enterance to the rooms where abortions are performed with our bodies.

3. One person who enters the clinic at this time will be a liaison between those inside and those outside. They will return to the men outside after it is determined how we are received inside and what the staff of Sigma plans to do.

(Before we go in, we will probably send in one woman who is unknown to the Clinic who will ask if they do pregnancy testing. She will be able to confirm that they are, in fact, open and that our access will be smooth)

4. If, for any reason, we cannot get into the Clinic. For instance, if they should lock the door before all of our people get in, those outside should simply sit down on the floor outside the elevators and door. We should make every attempt to enter as speedily as possible for this reason.

Inside the Clinic

1. The first few minutes are always the most tense. The clinic staff will be in a turmoil as to what to do. WE MUST KEEP OUR COOL! No matter how abusive they may be only the appointed spokesperson is to engage anyone on the staff in conversation. If the clinic has customers waiting there already, only the person designated to interract with their clients shall engage in conversation with them. We are considering having one of the men maintain a watch in the hall outside, who would be available if anyone should get violent with us. However, I see this as only a slim possibility.
2. As soon as all of our people are seated, we will begin singing one of the songs we have rehearsed (in moderately loud voices, but not shouting!)
3. Another activity which may be appropriate would be to have our people read literature and information gathered ahead of time on complications, testimony, etc. against abortion. Each person there can take turns reading the material at 15 minute intervals.
4. When we are certain that there are no women in the abortion rooms having abortions, we may have a couple of our people block the entrance to these rooms with their bodies, making it impossible or difficult for the employees of the clinic to take girls in there. (This will be decided at the clinic when we know what the atmosphere there is, but we should have people ready to do this just in case).

The more aggressive we become inside the Clinic, the faster the police will be called in to remove us. We want to time it so that the press gets there before the police and the police get there before the press leave. With this in mind, the leaders will escalate the action in accordance with the objectives. The liaison person can keep us informed of what is happening outside, and can let those outside know what we are doing.

Handling the Press

1. The Press will be referred upstairs by the male spokesperson outside. They may want to take pictures, interview, etc. We will have a prepared statement and will have appointed one person to speak with them. It is possible that Sigma may put someone from their staff outside the back door downstairs to prevent anyone from coming up. If so, one of our men will also stand there and will insure that press get to come up.

Activities to be Carried on Outside

1. Our supporters outside will have been busy contacting the press immediately upon our entry into the clinic.
2. The press release handout shall be distributed by two or three of the picketers to all offices in both medical buildings. Undoubtedly those distributing them, will be asked to comment on the sit-in. No arguing, debating or other unfavorable emotion is to be displayed to anyone showing negative feelings about the sit-in. It is to our favor to remain as calm and unemotional about this as possible.
3. Orderly picketing should be conducted outside with reference to the women inside being displayed on signs.
4. One of the men will be designated as spokesperson to the press or others (such as the owners of the building) who arrive.

When the Police Arrive

1. Eventually (we hope) the police will be summoned by Sigma. We will try to arrange that their arrival preceeds that of the press. They will read us our rights and will request that we leave within the next few minutes. Those of us who have decided to leave will gather their things and will leave quietly, singing. Those who remain will have been shown how to lay down in a relaxing position with muscles at ease in anticipation of being carried out. We will discuss the way in which children should accompany their mothers at the meeting. The Rockville police have probably had very little experience with this kind of situation, so we should be as amiable and helpful to them as possible. It may be some time before they actually get around to removing us, but we anticipate that they will eventually.
2. Husbands should go to the police station as soon as wives are removed from the clinic. There bail will be posted (we have a lawyer working with us on this) and all other pertinent matters will be worked out. Those who left the clinic when the police requested them to may want to go to the police station also to see what happens.

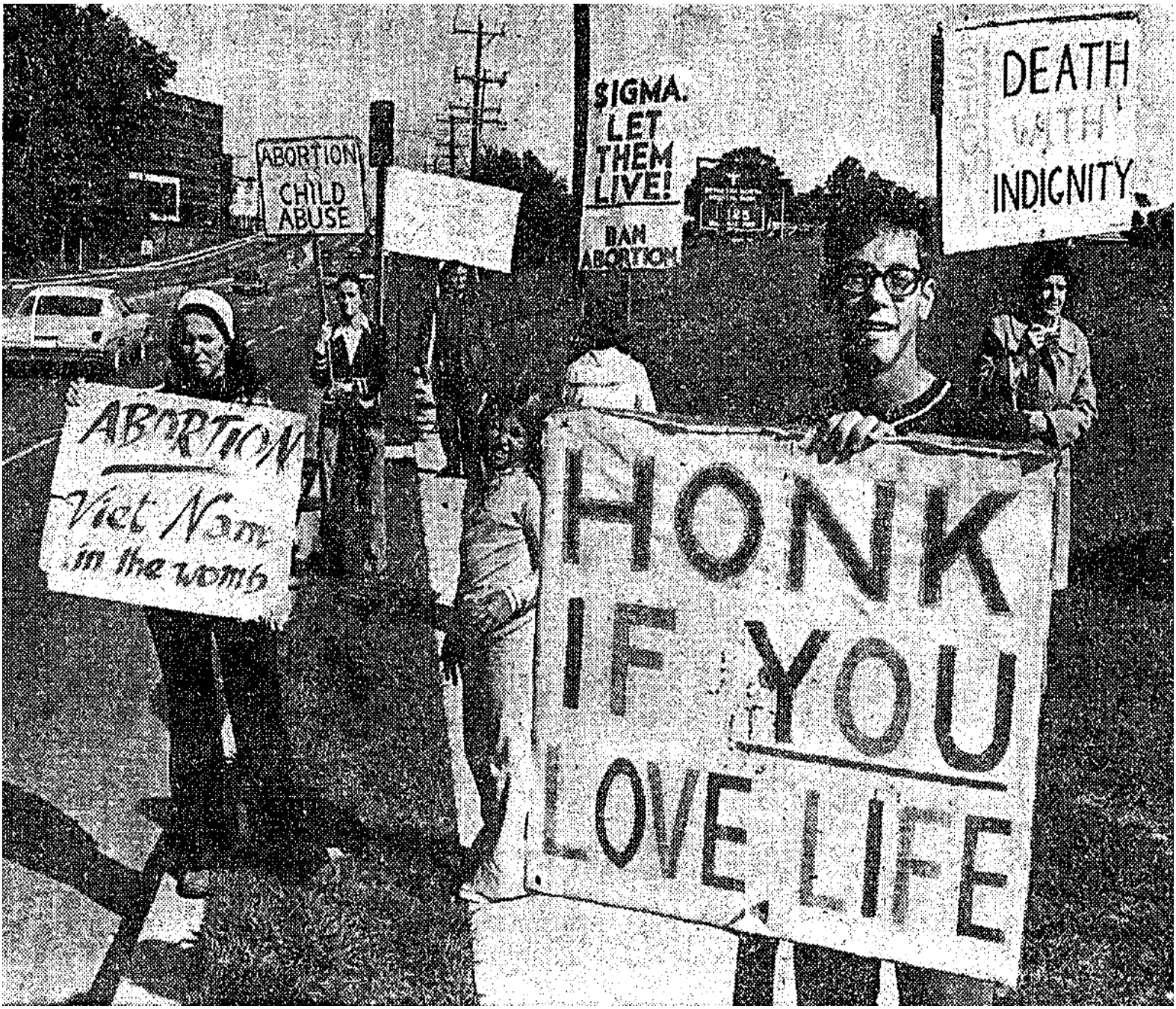
All of this should be very trying for Sigma. Not only will they not be able to do their abortions, but they will have the added embarrassment of having to deal with just the group which they are so blatantly exploiting. Hopefully this action will also be repeated by other groups (we already have been contacted by some who want to do the same thing). The most important thing is to show the media and the public that the movement is not as dead as they think.

After Police Leave

1. Picketing should continue when the police and the women have left. There may be more people from the press who will arrive who should be referred to the police station.

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR BABIES
NATIONAL YOUTH PRO-LIFE COALITION
Let Me Live
BABIES BUTCHERED HERE
UNBORN WOMEN HAVE RIGHTS TOO
STOP THE KILLING
911

MONTGOMERY CO. MD
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
4
MONTGOMERY CO. MD
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
4


ABORTION
CHILD
ABUSE
ABORTION
Viet Nam
in the womb
$IGMA.
LET
THEM
LIVE!
BAN
ABORTION
DEATH
INDIGNITY
HONK
IF YOU
LOVE LIFE

$IGMA.
LET
THEM
LIVE!
BAN
ABORTION
I'M GLAD
I'M ALIVE

Abortion Foes Arrested

SIX ADULTS were arrested and carried out of the Sigma Reproductive Health Center at 11119 Rockville Pike Saturday morning after the abortion clinic was occupied by 13 women and three babies. Being carried out by police here is Jeannette Reinecker of Takoma Park, and her daughter, Tara. One of the occupiers, Chris Mooney of Takoma Park, said the Montgomery County police were pleasant and courteous during the occupation, conducted by Women Opposed to Massacre and Brutality (WOMB). **More photos on page A-7.**

Journal Photo by Linda White

Journal Photos by Linda White

Abortion Foes Demonstrate, 6 Arrested

A STAFF MEMBER at the Sigma Reproductive Health Center climbs over furniture to reach her office and to avoid the 13 anti-abortion women who demonstrated there Saturday. After more than an hour of negotiations, police gently arrested one 17-year-old girl and six women — Ann E. Schutt of Beltsville, Eilene E. Renzi of Silver Spring, Jeannette M. Reinecker of Takoma Park, Mary E. Hayes of Silver Spring, Amy Donohoo of Silver Spring and Christina Mooney of Takoma Park. At right, Sgt. Charles Crockett and Cpl. J. Meikeljohn arrest a demonstrator. Below, Cpl. Meikeljohn interviews the demonstrators. There were about two dozen pickets outside the center.

Abortion is still seen as 'butchery'

As one of those who participated in the Sigma Reproduction Clinic sit-in on Aug. 2, I would like to exonerate us from the self-exonerating charges of social worker Virginia Cooley (Letters, Aug. 18).

As people who have long been concerned about the preborn and their mothers, it is precisely because of this type of hypocrisy, which speaks of the humanity of abortion, that makes it necessary for us to publicly demonstrate our desire to see the death of the selective death process of those least able to defend themselves.

No honest person on either side of the abortion issue can dispute that the real question is not whether the preborn are human beings, but whether their lives are to be valued. We value all humanity. The "great, great decision" that Betty Ford hails with moral naivete has stopped the butchery in the back alleys. It is no longer in back alleys. It is still butchery.

Amy Donohoo

Silver Spring, Md.

Six Md. Abortion Protesters Convicted of Trespassing

By Joe Green
Washington Post Staff Writer

Six women opponents of legalized abortion who were arrested at a Rockville clinic Aug. 2 were convicted of trespassing yesterday in Montgomery County District Court in Bethesda. They were sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation.

The six were part of a protest group that conducted a three-hour demonstration at the Sigma Reproductive Health Center Clinic where they said abortions were regularly performed.

They had refused to leave after repeated requests by county police officers, according to court testimony, and were forcibly taken from the fourth floor of the office building at 11119 Rockville Pike, where the Sigma Center is located.

In announcing his decision, Montgomery County District Judge Stanley Klaven said that the abortion clinic had a right to exist.

Klaven said the women had not done anything "terrible" but that they were clearly guilty of trespassing.

The six found guilty were Chris Mooney and Jeannette Reinecker of Takoma Park, Eileen Renzi, Amy Donohoo and Mary Hayes of Silver Spring and Ann Schutt of Beltsville.

John Meiklejohn, a Montgomery County policeman, testified that he placed the six women under arrest after he and the director of the clinic had pleaded with them to leave peacefully.

Meiklejohn told the Court that the women were boisterous and held each other's arms and joined to prevent patients from entering the front door of the clinic.

The protesters numbered as many as 14 at one point, Meiklejohn said, but half of them left as time passed. Meiklejohn said he pleaded with the women for three hours before arresting them about noon.

Gerard E. Mitchell, attorney for the six women, argued that the alleged "trespassing was morally correct because they (the women) believed that they were acting to save lives."

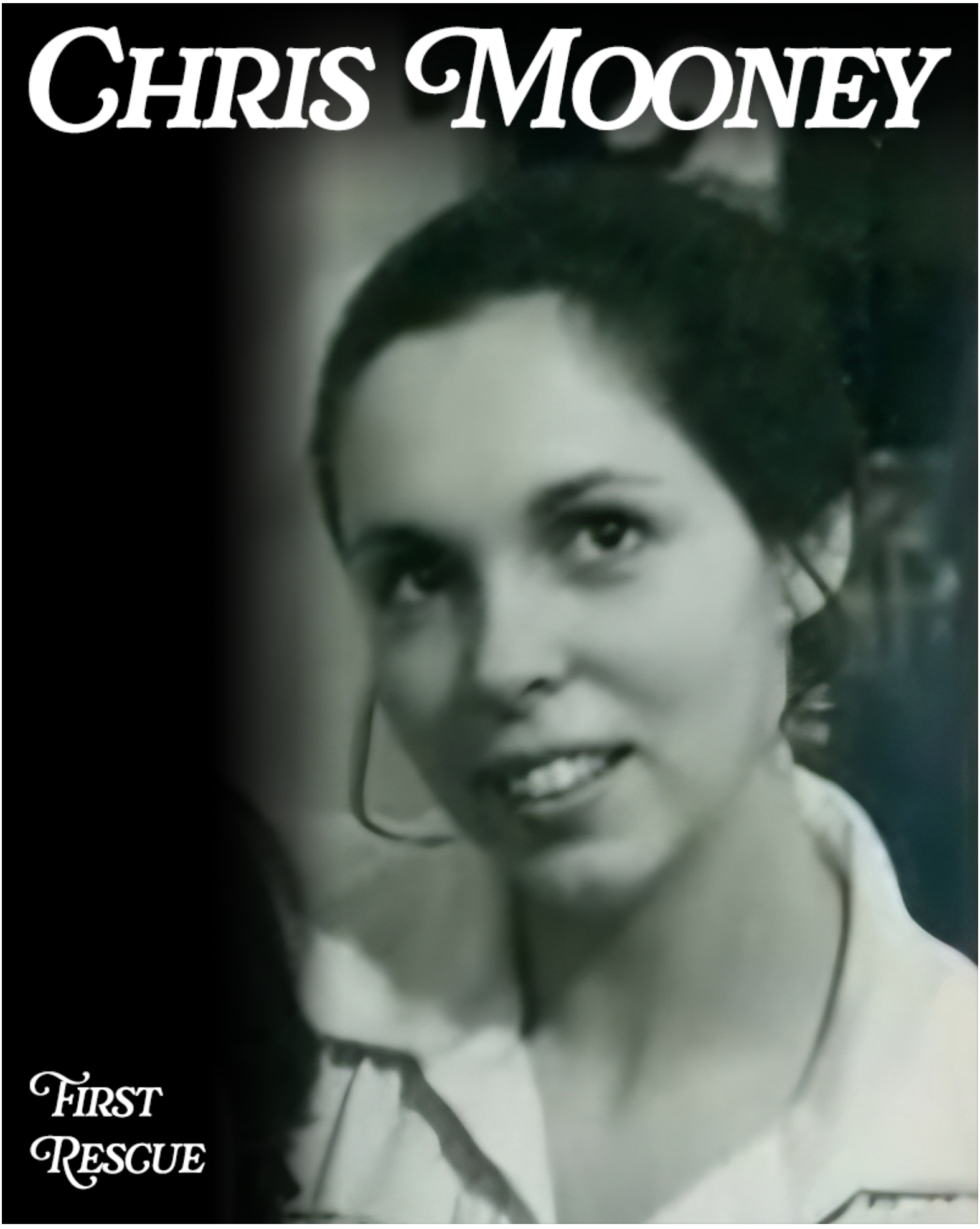
Mitchell said that birth begins with conception and that abortions were killings tantamount to the "destructions of Jew in Nazi Germany and the lynchings of blacks in the South."

At the completion of the trial, Chris Mooney, one of the defendants, said she was disappointed with the decision.

"I understand that we are being convicted of trespassing," she said, "but there is a large issue and that is that abortions are killing humans."

"We will continue to fight," she said, "in the courts, in the legislature, wherever possibly."

Chris Mooney



First Rescue

Chris Mooney

Full Name: Christina Lytle Baish Mooney-Compton

- Lead organizer of the First Rescue
- Trained other rescuers using her experience as a peace/antiwar activist in college
- Originally from Pennsylvania
- Studied at Abington High School, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, and Marywood University
- Lifelong liberal & democrat
- Served as Womens Commissioner of Prince George's County in Maryland
- Ran as delegate for pro-life democratic presidential candidate Ellen McCormack
- Founded Pregnancy Aid Center in Greenbelt, MD and served as President
- Served as Director for the Center for Life at Providence Hospital in Washington, DC
- Animal lover and advocate
- Died on June 13, 2022 at age 76

porters. Balch distributed copies of the manual to other NYPLC leaders, and soon Chris Mooney was guiding a small group of young anti-abortion activists in the Washington area in training and role-playing sessions modeled, through the guidebook, on the SNCC-led Mississippi Summer Project training weekends eleven years earlier. Oppenheimer and Lakey described three kinds of

If such tactics sound as if they were borrowed from a decade-old antiwar manual, it is not surprising that their introduction into the antiabortion cause came from a former antiwar activist.

Chris Mooney, 31, had been an antiwar activist in Philadelphia before she and her husband turned their attention to the antiabortion cause in 1973. "There was nothing happening legislatively," she said. "It really looked like abortion was here to stay. People were becoming desperate for some action" and Mooney began to get the idea of applying civil disobedience techniques to the antiabortion movement.

The essentially conservative nature of the antiabortion cause, however, chafed against some of the Mooneys' more liberal principles and their friends' as well.

"It was incredible," said Chris Mooney. "The first thing that happened was that we started losing a lot of our liberal friends. So many times, we've had to ask ourselves, are we really in the right movement?"

In a recent story in your paper which commented on my appointment to the Prince Georges Commission for Women, the one and only phrase used to describe my qualifications for this position were: "Christiana Mooney, wife of Delegate Thomas J. Mooney."

While I am proud of Tom's accomplishments in the Legislature, I fail to see how they relate to my appointment by County Executive Lawrence Hogan to serve on the commission. I believe that my personal qualifications for this position are impressive and far more relevant in the context of your article.

In the interest of eschewing journalistic sexism, I would like to suggest that when Tom's name next appears in your paper, he be referred to as "Thomas J. Mooney, husband of P.G. Womens Commissioner Chris Mooney."

Chris Mooney

Takoma Park, Md.

McCormack candidates in the 4th are Michael E. Ruddy, Joseph Mayo, John T. Purcell and Jerome T. May. In the 5th, Bernadine Chomat, Jeanette Reinecker and Christina Mooney. In the 8th, Daniel J. Boyle, Joseph Mauro and Joanne O' Donnell.

Chris Mooney, director of the Center for Life at Providence Hospital in Washington, said many abortion clinics "don't even tell women there is help" elsewhere. She said most "are profit making concerns and have a vested interest in encouraging women to abort."

Speaking in favor of requiring a second physician at late-term abortions, Mooney, nearly in tears, talked of "the absurdity of having to defend a born child's right to be treated humanely is heartbreakening and stomach-turning."

PREGNANCY AID CENTERS, INC.

FIRST: The undersigned Chris Mooney, Mary O'Donnell and Jo Linda Fleming whose post office addresses are 705 Elm Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20012; 9504 Edgely Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20014; and 4316 Rowalt Drive, Apt. 202, College Park, Maryland 20740, respectively each being at least eighteen years of age, do hereby form a corporation under the general laws of the State of Maryland.

SECOND: The name of the corporation (which is hereinafter call the Corporation) is Pregnancy Aid Centers, Inc.

THIRD: The purposes for which the corporation is formed are as follows:

To develop and administer programs and provide facilities to assist women experiencing distressful pregnancies; to assist her in finding solutions to physical, medical, legal, social, economic, employment, educational, personal and other problems related to her pregnancy; to work with other agencies or organizations interested in helping distressfully pregnant women; to provide speakers and information to educate the public regarding pregnancy, pregnancy-related topics and the services available by the Corporation; and to assure that every possible consideration is given the client and her unborn child to aid them in obtaining continued life and health.

16. Chris Mooney (President, Pregnancy Aid Centers, Inc.) Ms. Mooney viewed abortion as the worst solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancy, preferring to improve methods and availability of counseling and contraception. She expressed the fear that research on the fetus before and after abortion will further entrench our dependence on this pseudo-solution, by persuading women to abort in order to contribute to the cause of science. If science becomes dependent on abortion for research subjects, scientists and society will be even less inclined to develop viable alternatives to abortion. She urged that no money be offered for the use of an aborted fetus in research. (During questioning, Ms. Mooney said she has no knowledge of cases in which research did, in fact, operate as an inducement to abortion, and agreed that regulations could be devised to avoid that possibility.)

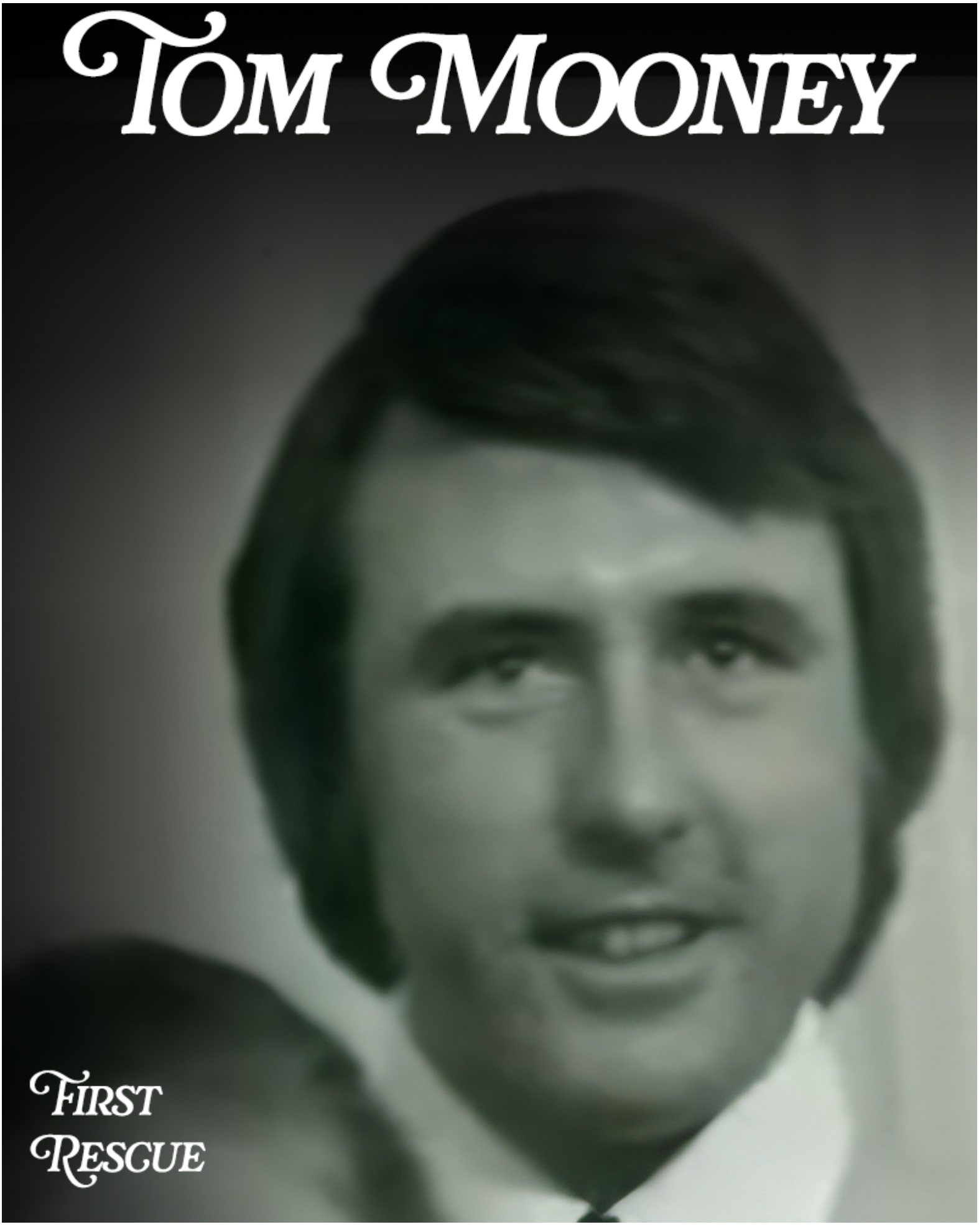
Chris Baish-Mooney

Oct 3, 2021 · **Nextdoor** ·

I emailed Senator Synema today and urge all AZ Democrats to email or phone her office. She needs to know that we need her to be a "true" Democrat and support the full intrastructure effort b ythe Party. Here's what I said:

"There should be an "Issue" in your list named "Be a True Democrat". Since there isn't, I chose a topic that only partially relates to this message ("Transportation & Infrastructure).

Tom Mooney



First Rescue

Tom Mooney

- Organizer of the First Rescue
- A peace/antiwar activist in college
- Executive Director of the National Pro-Life Youth Coalition
- Vice-President of the National Student Association
- Ran as delegate for democratic presidential candidate Ted Kennedy
- Elected Maryland State Delegate
- Ran as Republican for school board
- Ran for governor of Maryland
- Executive director of the Coalition to Extend Life
- Died on September 26, 2017

DEL. THOMAS J. MOONEY
. . . Takoma Park legislator

Md.'s Lonely Candidate

GOP Absent as Mooney Starts Governor's Bid

By Tom Kenworthy
Washington Post Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS, March 27—Maryland Republicans, who have been scouring the state for almost a year for someone to be their standard-bearer in the 1986 election, acquired a gubernatorial candidate today. But GOP officeholders and party leaders responded to the welcome news by being elsewhere when Del. Thomas J. Mooney announced his candidacy here.

Mooney, 41, a two-term Takoma Park legislator who defected from the Democratic Party last fall, threw his newly acquired GOP hat into the gubernatorial ring by proclaiming that the race for the State House "will be uphill but not impossible."

Mooney, who has a reputation as a somewhat unconventional lawmaker who frequently proposes legislation that draws attention but rarely passes, promised to run a "people-to-people" campaign whose centerpiece would be a walk across the state "from Oakland to Ocean City."

With his wife Elaine by his side, Mooney suggested that the true importance of his long-shot candidacy may be in helping rebuild the Mary-

See MOONEY, B5, Col. 3

According to Mooney, the centers will "try to help women with problem pregnancies, with money, housing and counseling. We will try to find a way to ameliorate her situation." Mooney said that many people have donated money for the projects and others have offered to provide shelter for as long as needed."

Mooney, whose group is eight months old, said it is "an alternative to the right to lifers. We are a little more liberal. There are two shows in town."

MOONEY WAS formerly director of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition and before that a vice president of the National Student Association.

Pro-lifers march at White House

WASHINGTON (NC) — More than 30 members of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition (NYPLC) demonstrated Jan. 21 in front of the White House in protest to President Richard Nixon's silence on abortion.

Tom Mooney, national director of the NYPLC, said that the demonstration was planned after the group was unable to arrange meetings with the President, Vice President Gerald Ford, and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Caspar Weinberger.

Requests for meetings were sent by letter to all three officials, Mooney said. A White House staff member replied that the President was too busy, and no responses were received from the other two officials, Mooney said.

Although the President indicated that he was opposed to abortion in 1972 by refusing to support relaxed abortion laws, Mooney said, he has remained silent on the subject since then.

St. Elizabeth sets open house

Mooney noted that truck drivers were arriving at the White House to begin demonstrating for a roll-back in the price of diesel fuel.

The presence of the truckers and the pro-life demonstrators, he said, indicated a "concern for people that just hasn't been present in the White House."

The pro-life demonstrators, Mooney added, planned to be at the Circle of Life demonstration the next day at the Capitol Building.

Leaders of all the groups agree that as of now, there is a long way to go before they are ready to muster the two-thirds vote needed in both houses for a constitutional amendment.

"Constitutional amendments are always difficult," said Tom Mooney, executive director of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition. "But this is the kind of issue no one really wants to touch. They just want to put it in a committee and leave it there."

WASHINGTON (NC)—Sitting in a two-room office, which has only one desk and two chairs, Thomas J. Mooney guides an organization which has as its goal something that has been accomplished only 26 times in history: an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"We're not opulent. We're not being backed by any sugar daddies or anything like that. Money is scarce, but I didn't get in it for the money," said the executive director of the National Youth Pro-life Coalition (NYPLC).

Mooney, 28 and with a neatly trimmed beard, has been at his new post for about a month. "I could have gotten another job if I had wanted money," he explained. "But there were other things that I felt were more important at this time in my life."

A native of Philadelphia, Mooney came to the NYPLC with knowledge gathered from two years as president of the Temple University student body and as vice-president of the National Student Association in 1971-72.

Abortion is "the chief domestic problem facing American society," he said in an interview. "And I've always been politically active." These two factors add "up to getting yourself involved," he said.

Involvement—in Mooney's case—implies a struggle for preserving life. "If someone is for abortion," he said, "they just really don't understand the implications of taking a human life."

In this respect, Mooney sees a relation between the anti-war and anti-abortion movements. "We just try to make connections between the killings in another country . . . and the killing of the unborn," he noted.

His aim and the NYPLC's he added, is "the whole attitude or respect for life, not only for life in the womb but life outside the womb."

Mooney's concern for "life outside the womb" led him to take an active part in the anti-war movement. "People unfortunately are under the impression that anyone against abortion is somehow on the extreme right wing of the political spectrum,"

Mooney said. "No one's ever accused me of that," he added.

Mooney is interested not only in merely preserving life, however. He also wants to make it better.

"Go out in New York City around five o'clock," he suggested, "and breathe the air, and tell me you're not being dehumanized."

Mooney is seeking a society in which people may "pursue the kind of life they choose to live free of hindrances."

How long will Tom Mooney stay with the NYPLC?

"At least until a constitutional amendment gets through Congress," he answered.

But just when that will be is hard to tell, he said.

The NYPLC, he said, is watching both the Buckley and Hogan anti-abortion amendments but is not supporting either. Mooney and the NYPLC are waiting to find out what the chances for passage of both will be before any commitment is made, he said.

An organization is needed in every state, Mooney continued, to apply pressure on Congress. And the problems the Equal Rights Amendment is suffering in the state legislatures have shown him that the state organizations cannot ease up after Congress gives its approval. The state organizations must continue their pressure after Congressional approval, but it must then be shifted to the state legislatures, he said.

When the Equal Rights Amendment was given Congressional approval, Mooney explained, "everyone sighed this huge sigh of relief, and a lot of people dropped off."

"Let's not have tunnel vision." Mooney warned. "Let's look to the future and when we get it past the Congress, that's only the beginning. The next thing is the 38 out of 50 states."

(In St. Louis, the local affiliate of the Nayiona National Youth Pro-Life Coalition is called "Save Our Unwanted Lives"—SOUL. President is Thomas Conran, 619 S. Central av., Clayton.)

birth-control measure." Tom Mooney says, "I think there's a relationship between abortion and the wanton bombing in Cambodia. They're both on the same moral level, and our entire society needs to be reeducated toward the values of life."

Antiabortion leaders insist that they aren't being financed by the Catholic Church, as pro-abortionists sometimes charge. "I'd love to see some sugar daddy send us $50,000 in the mail," says Mr. Mooney, who is director of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition, based in Washington. "But we haven't seen any big money yet, and we've hardly seen any small money. We haven't gotten any money from the Catholic Church."

Instead, leaders say, they raise money through bake sales, rummage sales, raffles, square dances, theater parties, or by simply soliciting well-to-do-contributors.

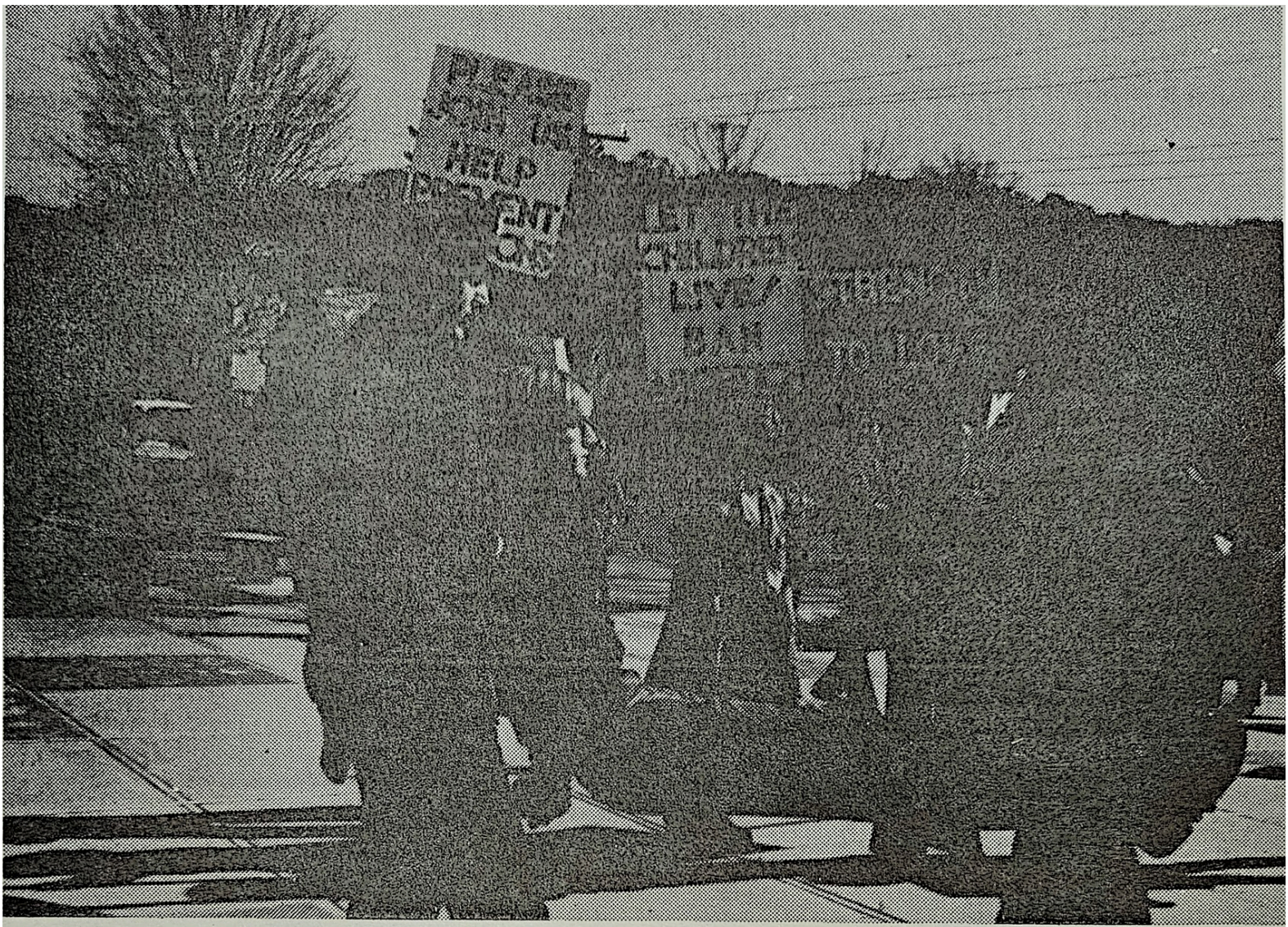
Burke Balch

First Rescue

Burke Balch

Full Name: Thomas J. Burke Balch, JD

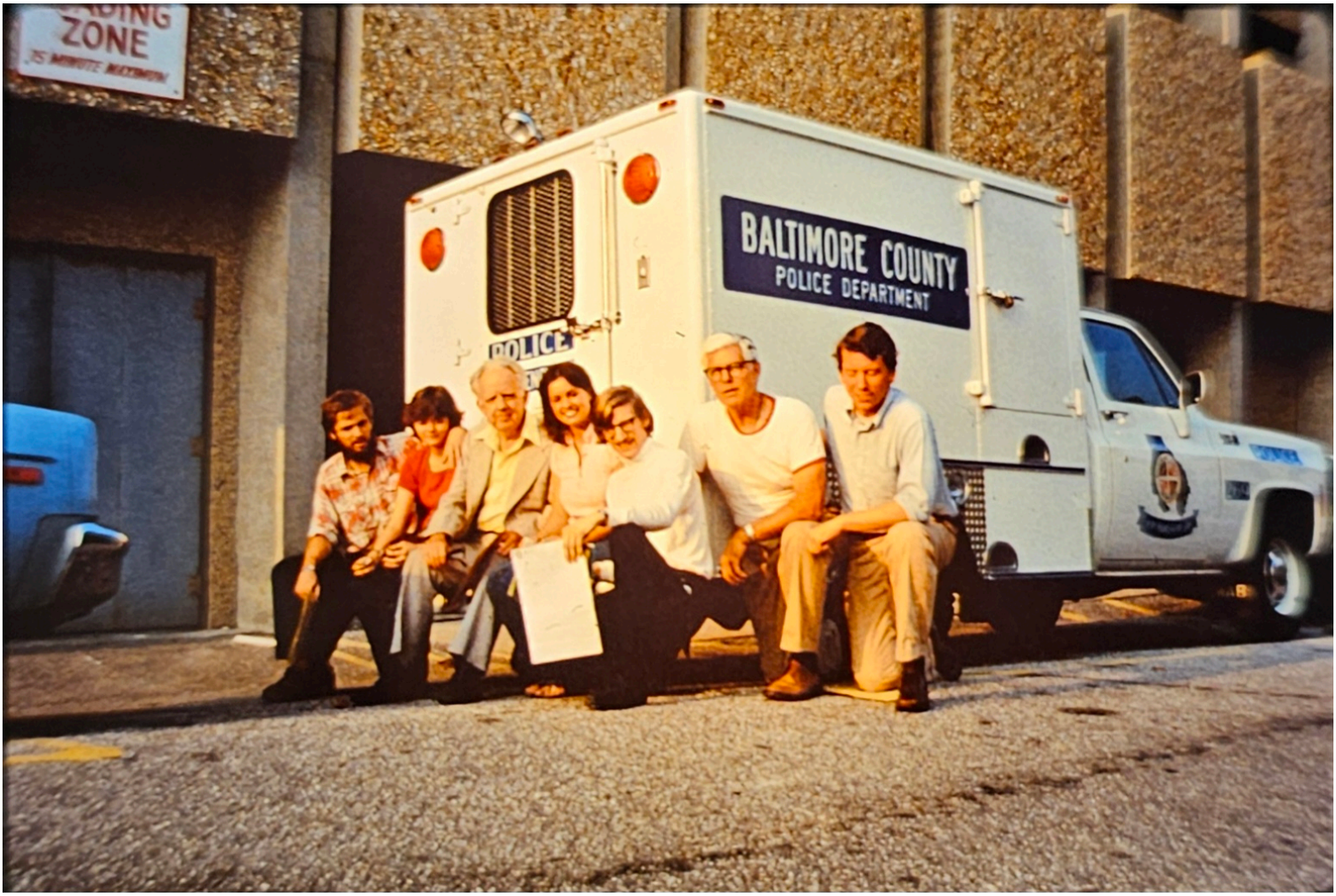
- Organizer of the First Rescue
- "Interned" under the Mooneys at the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition
- At time of Sigma Sit-in, was agnostic and liberal
- Researched civil disobedience tactics for the sit-in
- Went on to rescue with the Pro-Life Nonviolent Action Project into the 80's
- Alumnus of Williams College and studied law at New York University
- Former staff counsel for Americans United for Life Legal Defense Fund
- Served as attorney-advisor for U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
- Worked for 37 years at the National Right to Life Committee, first as director of the Department of State Legislation, then as director of the Powell Center for Medical Ethics
- Currently a professional parliamentarian lawyer



MINUTES LATER, CHILDREN DIED

Burke Balch, a law student from NYU, is removed from an abortion clinic in Norwich, Connecticut, on October 31, 1977. He and five others -- three women and two men -- are charged with criminal tres-

7648
BALTIMORE WOMEN'S
MEDICAL CENTER


ZONE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE

As Burke Balch, a college student who attended the workshops and worked for the National Right to Life Committee, later remembered, Fager's presentation led to the conclusion that anti-abortion activists should "nonviolently place themselves between the fetus and the knife." Suffering on the part of activ-

ment. Burke Balch and a small group of young activists organized the first sit-in at an abortion clinic in 1975, at Sigma Reproductive Health Services in Rockville, Maryland. Inspired by Fager's presentation but in need of more specific direction, the group asked Balch to research civil disobedience. In the Library of Congress, Balch found a manual on civil disobedience developed by a Quakers in the 1960s. The result was a series of training sessions and a "Logistical Plan" that covered such topics as what to do inside the clinic, picketing outside, literature, "handling the press," and nonviolent resistance while being arrested. The plan acknowledged the "turmoil" inherent even in nonviolent protest and stressed that "WE MUST KEEP OUR COOL!" Finally, the contributions of Fager and the Quaker manual from the 1960s ensured that, at least until Operation Rescue in the late 1980s, protests at abortion clinics were called "sit-ins" after the protests of organized labor and the civil rights movement.[25]

In contrast to later public demonstrations that emphasized the role of conservative male leaders in the anti-abortion movement, the initial sit-in in Rockville was noteworthy for its relative diversity. The group was predominantly female and included a number of individuals, including Balch, who considered themselves agnostic or atheists. Moreover, they were "fully aware that the issue was being tainted by religious arguments" and accusations of anti-feminism. As a result, the group stressed "secular arguments" of human rights and limited its civil disobedience within the clinic to six female activists. After songs,

outside. "You had to get across something that would break the stereotype of misogynistic males who were trying to control women," says Balch. "We were trying to get people to stop and listen, and to rethink."

A pamphlet handed out to activists just before the sit-in offered a more telling rationale, one that spoke volumes about the desperate state of the anti-abortion movement at the time: "The most important thing is to show the media and the public that the movement is not as dead as they think."

While waiting to be arrested inside clinics, O'Keefe's group would sing civil rights protest songs—"We Shall Overcome," among others—updated with new and jarring, homemade anti-abortion lyrics. Their new lyrics never caught on. "I always thought that one of the problems with this movement was that we never had any good songs of our own," says Balch. "Every good protest movement needs its own music, but we never had it."

what Joe Scheidler was saying," recalls O'Keefe. "We figured that our job was to explain to others what we were doing, to offer leadership, to spread nonviolence as an answer to violence." Burke Balch, who had worked with the NYPLC when its leaders helped organize the first anti-abortion sit-in back in 1975, served as the natural connection between O'Keefe and the youth group.

Abortion: A General Concern

By Burke J. Balch

CHICAGO — The debate over the appropriate role of religion in politics is befogged by a crucial misunderstanding about the nature of abortion, which is in essence a matter of public and not merely private morality.

So far, Senator Kennedy is correct. But there is a problem in applying this principle to abortion. If the fetus is not yet a human person, abortion, like contraception, does not affect others, and religious and other moral leaders should not ask the law to interfere. However, if the fetus is a human person, then an abortion causes harm to someone other than the mother, and abortion is a matter of public morality — one about which laws may properly be advocated by religious leaders.

Mr. Cuomo, Mrs. Ferraro and Mr. Kennedy may have unusual grounds to oppose abortion, unrelated to the rights of the fetus. But if their reasoning is the same as that given by their church (as well as by other denominations and by agnostics like myself), they must believe that the fetus is a human person whom abortion unjustly destroys. There is an untenable inconsistency between that conviction and a public policy permitting and funding abortion. Religious leaders who point this out do not breach the separation of church and state. They act in the best tradition of public debate in a justice-seeking republic. □

ABORTION, From A1

where Miller's and Bodner's latest arrests occurred.

The "Pro-Life" versus "Pro-Choice" battle promises to be a long one, waged for years to come in courts and capitol buildings as well as in frontline skirmishes such as the Fairfax incidents.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1973 that abortions in the first three months of pregnancy should be a question for a woman and her doctor to decide—an event commemorated in metal bracelets saying "January 22, 1973" that both Bodner and Miller wear—groups such as the 11 million-member Right to Life Committee have been trying to counter it. As the fight intensifies over questions of Medicaid funding, parental permission, and constitutional amendments, so do the emotions.

"Pro-Choice" spokeswomen say that "nonviolent" sit-ins are not nonviolent at all; that in fact they rupture a woman's right to privacy and, as one put it, attack her "personhood" as surely as if she had been smacked in the face.

"Pro-Life" militants contend that abortion is murder, and have decided that the only course acceptable to their consciences is to "place our bodies between the (pregnant) women and the room where abortions are performed," as 22-year-old law student Burke Balch phrased it.

Though participants say the sit-ins grow spontaneously from discussions among members of an affinity group of Pro-Lifers, they are carefully organized in the sense that people are appointed to be media contacts, others to be arrested, and others to carry signs, distribute literature or sing. Some people, called counselors, "inform the women of alternatives available to them, that we love them and support them," Bodner said.

During the first part of the July 27 contempt hearing in which federal Judge J. Calvitt Clarke ordered Miller and Bodner and their codefendants, David Gaetano, 27, and Mary Beth McKernan, 18, to pay the fine or go to jail in 30 days, a woman sitting in the front row got up.

Pregnant and carrying an infant under one arm, she walked slowly up to the rail that separates the participants from the audience. Almost reverentially, she placed a hand on the shoulder of one of the protester's. Then she ritually touched the next.

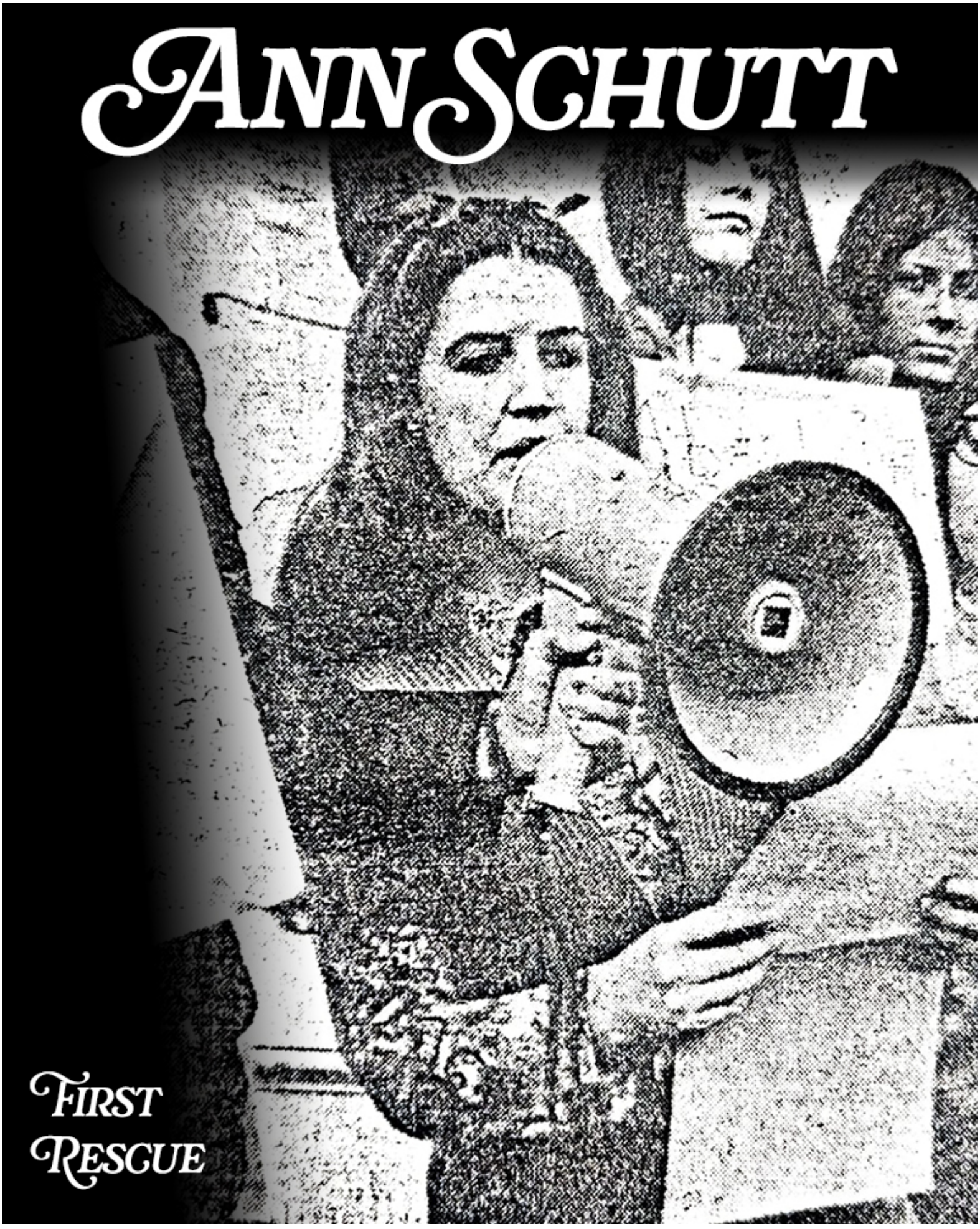
As she placed her hand on the third, a female marshal asked her to stop. She shrugged off the marshal's restraining arm. The marshal then led her firmly to the door, and she began screaming something unintelligible. She continued to scream as she left

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Thomas J. (Burke) Balch, a professional parliamentarian, headed various departments of the National Right to Life Committee from 1989 to 2016.

I am strongly pro-life and have strongly opposed former president Donald Trump. Equally strongly, I hold that abortion rights advocates should not be prevented from demonstrating outside the homes of Supreme Court justices, and that Elon Musk is right to say Trump should not be banned from Twitter.

Ann Schutt



First Rescue

Ann Schutt

- Police liaison of the First Rescue
- Oldest of the Sigma Seven
- Held her baby during the sit-in
- Stated to the police that their goals were to "shut down the Health Center and completely do away with abortion."
- Further stated that they would not leave until the center administrator answered questions concerning abortion
- Organized the Women's March for Life in 1971, a 500-person counterprotest
- Served at president of Prince George's chapter of Right to Life
- Described by her friends as a "truth-speaker", "good talker", "honest", "loving", and "fun"

CATHOLIC STANDARD

Abortion

PLEA FOR THE UNBORN: Rep. Lawrence J. Hogan of Maryland holds a loudspeaker for Mrs. Ann Shutt as she reads a petition calling on Congress and the President to protect the rights of the unborn child. Mrs. Shutt organized the Women's March for Life in which about 500 persons marched to the Capitol on Saturday as a counter-measure to the national pro-abortion march and rally held the same day. They met with Rep. Hogan on the Capitol steps.

NOV 25 1971

Capitol March Supports Unborn's Right To Life

The sit-in at the clinic, at 3230 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, and a picket line outside were organized by People Expressing Concern for Everybody, an antiabortion group.

"There are human beings being sacrificed here," said Ann Schutt of Beltsville, nodding in the direction of the clinic, as she and 16 others picketed.

About 20 placard carrying supporters demonstrated outside as the eight were picked up bodily by police and carried to vans waiting outside the clinic, located in an office building belonging to a real estate firm.

One of the arrested women, Mrs. Joan Harris of Arlington, said: "The abortion chambers that we blocked were all set up and ready for operation. Seeing the glass jar of the suction machine, it suddenly seemed so important to be blocking that door."

Also arrested were: Mrs. Kay Bailey of Alexandria; Mrs. Ann Schutt of Beltsville, Md.; Mary B. McKernan, 16, of Arlington, Va.; Leszek Syski of Silver Spring, Md.; William Ryan of Kensington, Md.; and John O'Keefe of Windsor, Conn.

Holding signs that said, "In Your Heart, You Know Abortion is Wrong," Ann Schutt and Judy Wheatley of Prince George's County gave out copies of Kennedy's voting record on abortion.

But the Prince George's County bill has been linked to a controversial issue that has become anathema to legislative bodies—abortion.

At a public hearing held in County Council chambers last week, Ann Schutt, president of the Prince George's chapter of the Right To Life organization, complained that by extending that protection to women with pregnancy-related medical conditions, the county could be condoning abortion procedures.

That leaves the one issue that identifies thousands of Catholic voters in the county, and on which Kennedy has lost much of his potential support—abortion. Maryland has one of the strongest antiabortion movements in the country, and the Prince George's Right to Life organization, which counts 12,000 members, is solidly opposed to Kennedy.

"Kennedy says he's totally against abortion, but his voting record is 100 percent wrong," says Ann Schutt, the leader of the county movement. "Choosing between Kennedy and Carter for us is like choosing between Hitler and Stalin. We are solidly behind Reagan."

"It's fairly organized pressure," Glendenning said. "A majority of the county is pro-choice. But I also know you are elected to not only reflect the public will, but to do what you know is right. There's no doubt I will lose support because of this vote."

Glendenning and Casula say they believe life begins with conception, and that the role of a hospital is "to save life, not murder," as Casula put it. Both are Catholics, but they denied their religion had any influence on their position.

"I think you could be of any religion or no religion at all and still ask the question of 'where does life begin,' " said Glendenning.

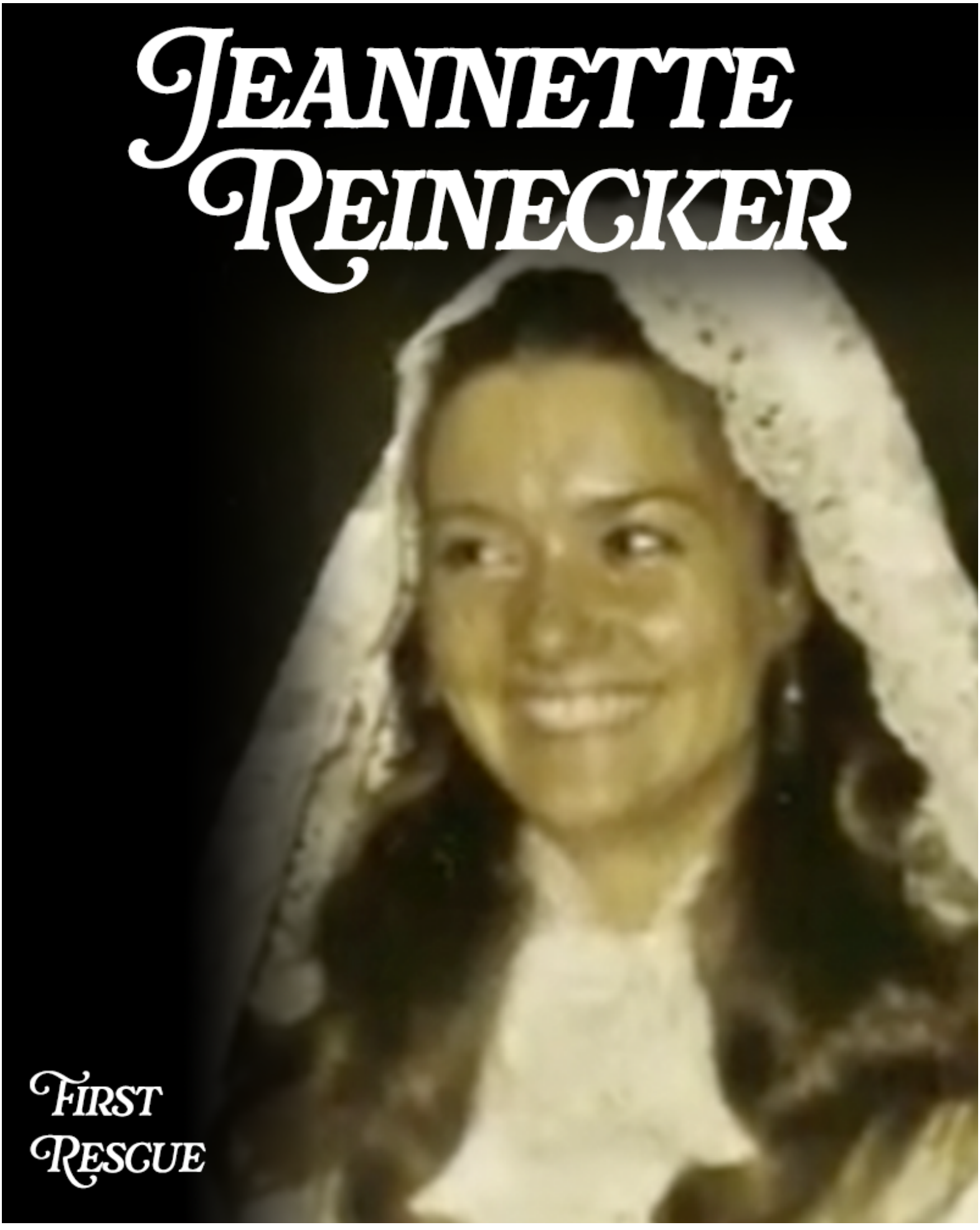
Ann Schutt, president of Prince George's County Right to Life, acknowledges that her movement seeks to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court decision by chipping away at the rights of certain women to have abortions. The 1977 Hyde amendment, by prohibiting use of federal Medicaid funds for abortions, affected poor women. A county ban would affect those who, for any reason, prefer to use public facilities.

"If we can save poor people's babies, we will do that. If we can stop tax dollars we'll do that," said Schutt. "Abortion is wrong for everyone."

"The right to life of another person is not a personal decision. Really, we don't want to run people's lives. It's a simple matter of justice for us. The question is: is this thing in the woman a part of humanity, or isn't it?"

In Prince George's, of course, most abortions are performed in private

Jeannette Reinecker



First Rescue

Jeannette Reinecker

Full Name: Jeannette M. Renzi Reinecker

- Co-founder of W.O.M.B. (Women Opposed to Massacre and Brutality)
- Arrested at First Rescue while holding her infant daughter
- Co-founder of the Pregnancy Aid Center in Greenbelt, MD
- Ran as delegate for pro-life democratic presidential candidate Ellen McCormack
- Oldest of nine children, sister of Eileen Forrestel
- Won a beauty pageant as a child
- Protested the Vietnam War
- Became a licensed clinical social worker
- Currently on the board of Birthright

Jeannette Reinecker

Quotes from Interview with Elise Ketch

"[The sit-in was] one of the scariest things I've ever done."

When the Mooneys passed out a questionnaire asking, *How far would you go to save a life?*, Jeannette recalled: "If they hadn't asked that question, I would have stayed a supporter [and not have been arrested.]"

"The worst thing was *Roe v. Wade*... [but it] extroardinarily enriched my life, and that's the mystery."

"Now is the time to take up arms, literally"[394]

"If I saw a child in the street whose life was endangered even though it would be a risk to myself, I would have to take the risk to save the child," stated Jeannette Reinecker of Takoma Park, Maryland. "I don't see any difference between the born and unborn child." In the summer of 1975, Reinecker founded Women Against Massacre and Brutality (WOMB) with five other women and their husbands. They drafted a three-page logistical plan that set a tight schedule for a clinic sit-in, and practiced letting their bodies go limp in preparation for their arrests in special role-playing sessions. The WOMB activists also decided that only women would participate in the clinic sit-in. As one of the husbands and leaders later recalled, "You had to get across something that would break the [pro-life] stereotype of misogynistic males who were trying to control women."[395] On the Saturday morning of August 2, 1975, the six women occupied the waiting room of the Sigma Reproductive Health Center in Takoma Park, Maryland. Three of the six carried their infants in their arms as their

Jeanette Reinecker of Takoma Park said "continued suppression" of the amendment would make it "the biggest political issue . . . I want to protect my son from a society where killing is a convenience of life."

McCormack candidates in the 4th are Michael E. Ruddy, Joseph Mayo, John T. Purcell and Jerome T. May. In the 5th, Bernadine Chomat, Jeanette Reinecker and Christina Mooney. In the 8th, Daniel J. Boyle, Joseph Mauro and Joanne O'Donnell.

FAMILIES, From C1

planning, the women witnesses said, requires the woman to monitor her own body in one of several ways to find out when she can become pregnant. During her fertile period, they suggested, she should abstain.

"Natural family planning is information about their bodies every woman should have," Scheuer said. "She can know when the fertile period is and choose whether or not to abstain. I think that's basic information every young woman would want to have about her own body. I would think that would be SOP — standard operating procedure."

Later, several witnesses, including Jeannette Reinecker, the pregnant mother of three, a veteran of the pro-life movement, were standing in the hallway. Dr. Rhonda Einhorn, a researcher on the committee staff, was recalling earlier hearings in which women from the National Women's Health Network—"a very radical women's group"—testified. "They said they don't want the IUD, the pills. They're women. They know what these things do.'"

Reinecker, 29, a primary school teacher who has spent most of her free time in recent months in pro-life lobbying before the Maryland state legislature, seemed to agree.

She spoke of the effectiveness of natural family planning, of advances being made in the methods, and later she testified in detail, citing statistics from planned parenthood making it as effective as the pill and vasectomies, if the woman monitors her body carefully. "We've come a long way since the calendar rhythm method," Reinecker said.

"There is actually a lot of agreement between women on the right and women on the left," Rhonda Einhorn said at the end of the session. "The president of the right-to-lifers is against a lot of methods. The pill is unhealthy and the IUD is unhealthy. We asked her what about the foam, condom and diaphram. She said 'I would approve of those.' When (a representative) of the Women's Health Network came she said the same thing. There is actually a lot of agreement if they'd get together and talk, and not let the issue of abortion get in the way."

The six women and five men defendants had been rebuffed during the first day of the trial in their attempt to base their defense on what is known as "the doctrine of necessity," which permits actions that would be normally be illegal — such as breaking into private property — if the action is aimed at saving life or property.

Although Judge Bacon refused to allow that defense, it has already been successfully employed in a similar case in a similar case involving some of the same defendants in Fairfax, Va., just outside of Washington.

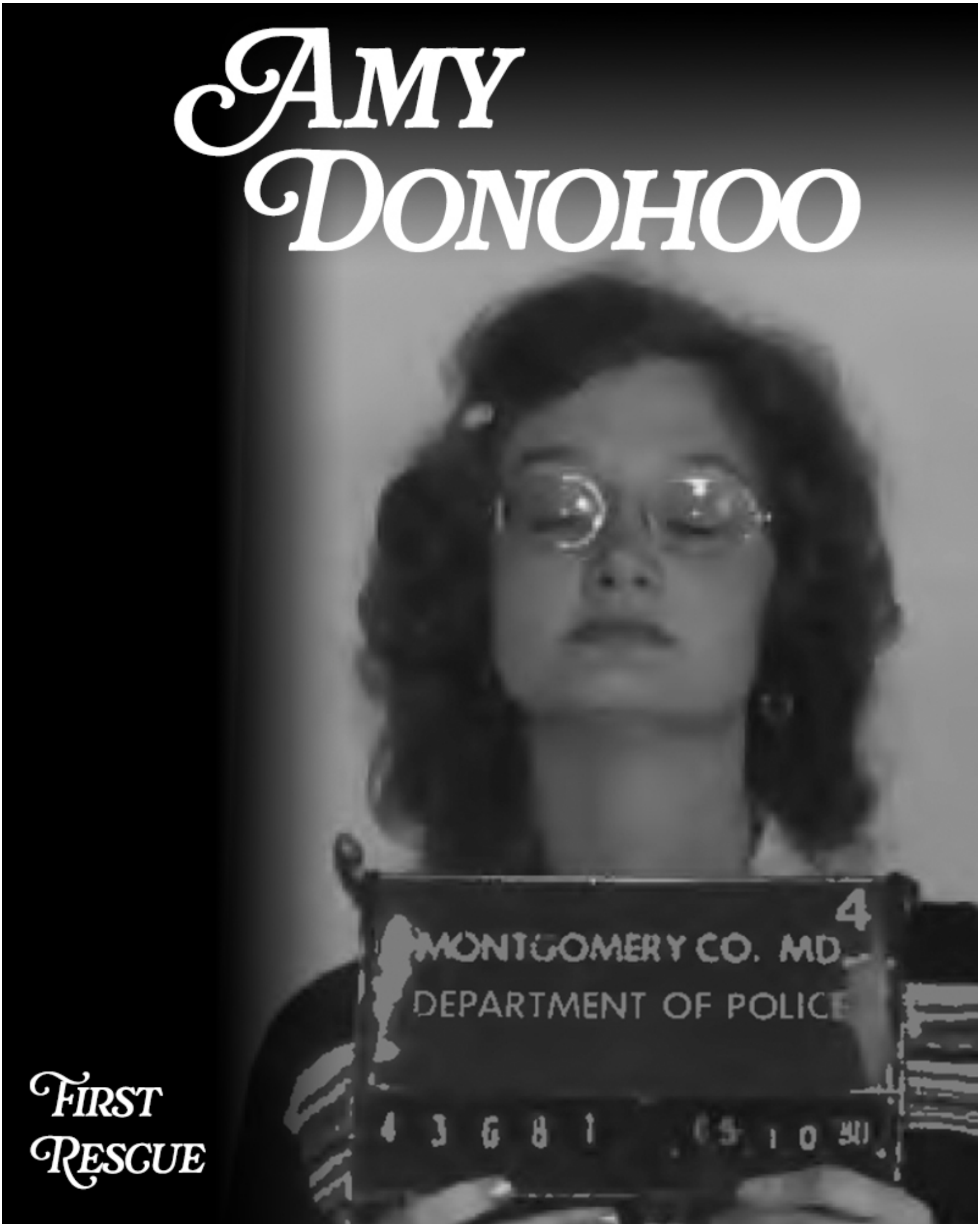
The case was the fourth such trial in the Washington area since September, 1976, and three more — not including the possible retrial of the five freed on Dec. 21 — are pending.

In a statement released after the court's action, the group said through a spokesman, "These sit-ins are a direct means of saving lives, and we fully expect that there will be more of them in this area — and, we hope, throughout the country."

Those against whom charges were dropped are: Luci O'Keefe, a junior at Harvard; Jeannette Reinicker of Silver Spring, Md.; Amy and Lisa Donohoo of Silver Spring; Leszek Syski of Silver Spring; and Mary O'Donnell of Bethesda, Md.

Mistrials were declared in the cases against Burke Balch, a law student at New York University; John O'Keefe of New Haven (brother of Luci O'Keefe); Larry Donohoo, a graduate student at Catholic University (brother of Amy and Lisa Donohoo); Diane Bodner of Bowie, Md.; and Kathleen Macdonald of Washington.

Amy Donohoo



First Rescue

Amy Donohoo

- Arrested, tried, and convicted at First Rescue
- Sister of rescuers Lisa and Larry Donohoo
- Described as "committed" with "guts" and "courage"
- Regularly picketed at abortion facilities
- Planned many anti-abortion sit-ins
- Became a leader in the sit-in movement (early Rescue)
- "It is precisely this type of hypocrisy... that makes it necessary for us to publicly demonstrate our desire to see the death of the selective death process of those least able to defend themselves."
- "[Abortion] is still butchery."
- "[Going to jail] is one of those things you get used to. Now when we come home, we resume our normal lives on the same day."
- "I found it hard to believe that people who were so in favor of stopping the killing in Vietnam did not join us [at the sit-ins]."

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13-5-16-80

ANTI-ABORTION DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED (210)

WHEATON, Md. (NC) — Eight pro-life activists were arrested while taking part in a sit-in demonstration at the Sigma abortion clinic in Wheaton.

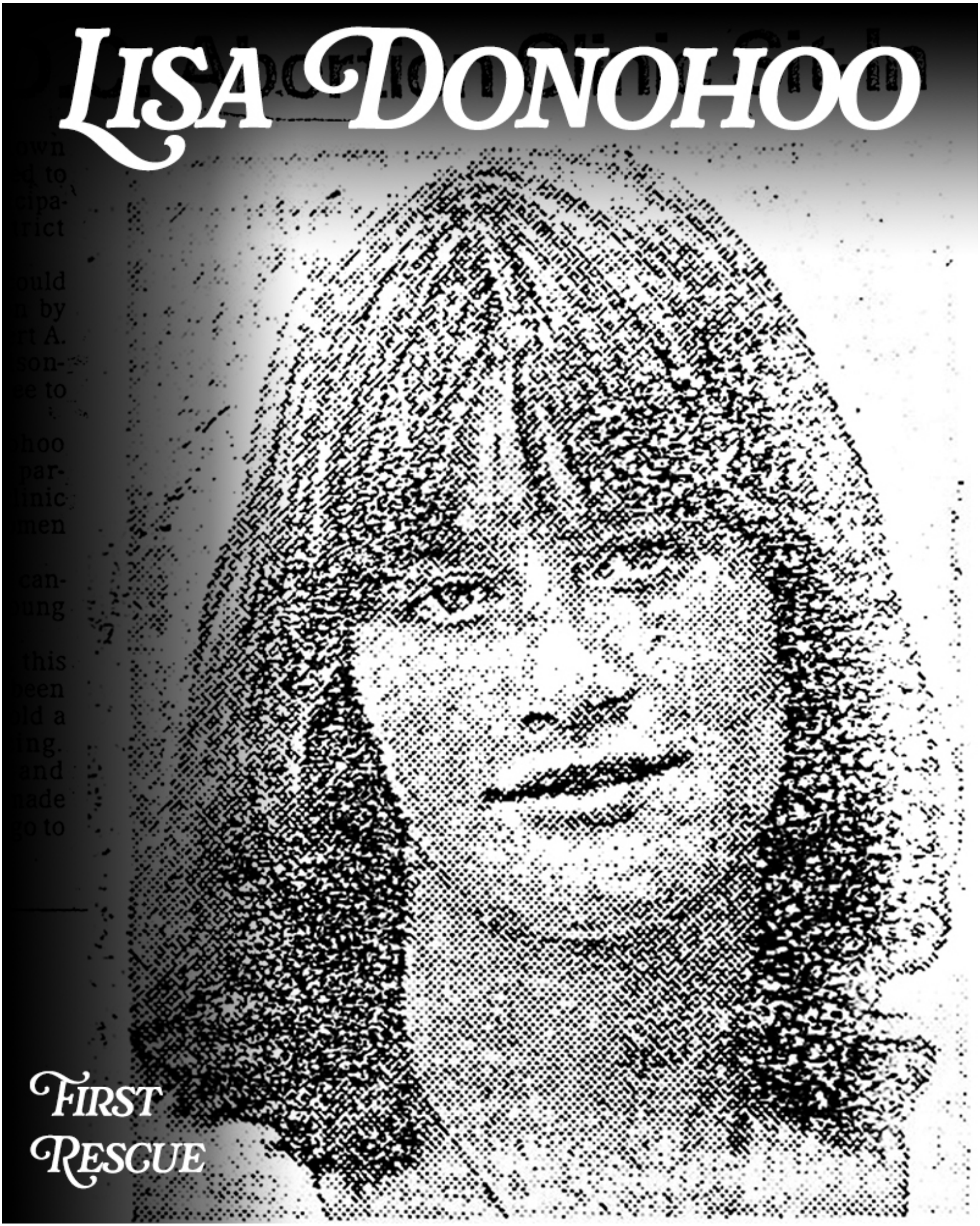
The eight, part of a group of about 75 demonstrators, were variously charged with disorderly conduct, wanton trespass, trespass, trespass on public property and interference with an arrest.

Those arrested May 10 were Leszek Syski of Silver Spring, Md., who has been arrested 21 times for similar activity and will soon begin a 90-day sentence in the Washington city jail; Robert Rudnick of St. Paul, Minn., who was arrested the previous day at an anti-nuclear war demonstration at the Pentagon; Lisa and Amy Donohoo of Germantown, Md.; Richard Walters of Washington, past president of Idaho State Right to Life; Gay Laurienzo of Rockville, Md.; Betty Moore, a welfare mother of six and founder of Socialists for Life; and George Yourishin, executive director of Maryland Right to Life Action.

Trial for the eight has been set for June 20 in the Montgomery County Courthouse in Rockville, Md.

When the demonstrators first moved to the front of the clinic, one of them spoke to a pregnant woman about to enter, who then decided not to have the abortion. As the woman was returning to her car, the owner of the abortion clinic approached her and invited her to reschedule the abortion for the following week. The woman replied: "No. Never."

Lisa Donohoo



First Rescue

Lisa Donohoo

- Arrested and released at First Rescue at age 17
- Was a minor at the time, so wasn't tried or convicted, and name was withheld in news
- Known as the secret 7th member of the Sigma Seven
- Sister of rescuers Ann and Larry Donohoo
- Arrested 11 times for sit-ins at abortion facilities
- Majored in English at Catholic University, graduated with honors
- Won poetry contest at the 1979 March for Life
- Worked as a congressional staffer
- Served as clerk of the Life Amendment Political Action Committee
- "Of all my pro-life activities, this is the only way I have actually been able to save a life. The killing is in the clinics, and that's where I can stop it. I've made my decision, and I'm willing to go to jail to save lives."

Lisa Donohoo

Quotes from interview with Elise Ketch

"I've given my life to the movement, and the movement gave back."

"Everything else I did paled in comparison to the sit-ins."

"[Rescue] is a chance to be more human."

HINGTON STAR Wednesday, August 27, 1980

Abortion

Germantown Woman Gets Month In Jail for D.C. Abortion Clinic Sit-In

A 22-year-old Germantown woman yesterday was sentenced to one month in jail for her participation in a 1978 sit-in at a District abortion clinic.

The woman, Lisa Donohoo, could have been placed on probation by D.C. Superior Court Judge Robert A. Shuker, but she chose imprisonment, saying she could not agree to the terms of her release.

Had she accepted, Donohoo would have been barred from participating in future abortion clinic sit-ins aimed at preventing women from obtaining the operation.

"I would like probation, but I cannot accept," the soft-spoken young woman told Shuker.

"Of all my pro-life activities, this is the only way I have actually been able to save a life," Donohoo told a reporter before the sentencing. "The killing is in the clinics, and that's where I can stop it. I've made my decision, and I'm willing to go to jail to save lives."

LISA DONAHOO
A matter of principle

20-1-24-79

OFTEN-JAILED STUDENT WINS POETRY CONTEST (580)

By Thomas J. Barbarie

WASHINGTON (NC) — Lisa Donohoo, 20, of Silver Spring, Md., smiled as she accepted the first prize in the poetry contest at the Jan. 22 March for Life. Until that moment before more than 60,000 cheering people on the Capitol steps, the only returns on her pro-life activities had been seven arrests and an injured shoulder.

This was Miss Donohoo's second trip to Capitol Hill in less than a week. On Jan. 16, she was part of a group of demonstrators who taped the Declaration of Independence to the columns by the front doors of the U.S. Supreme Court. None of the protesters was arrested that day but the demonstrators were moved away by Supreme Court Police.

Miss Donohoo, an English major at Catholic University, was interviewed along with her sister, Amy, 25, on Jan. 19. Amy Donohoo has been arrested five times at abortion clinic sit-ins. A brother, Larry Donohoo, 23, has also been arrested several times for the same reason.

"We know we're going to jail," said poet Lisa in plain prose.

"It's one of those things you get used to," said Amy. "Now when we come home, we resume our normal lives on the same day."

Both sisters insist that they are doing what has to be done. They say they find it difficult to understand how others refuse to become involved in the pro-life fight.

"Those same people will watch (the television series) 'Holocaust' and say how horrible that was. I say there's something just as wrong going on today: We've killed more babies than Hitler killed Jews," said Amy.

She said she is particularly surprised about the absence of certain people from the pro-life front lines. "I found it hard to believe that people who were so in favor of stopping the killing in Vietnam did not join us," when the sit-in movement began.

Pro-lifers first went into the clinics, Amy said, "after two years of picketing (outside the clinics) and feeling the helplessness of trying to persuade girls not to have their babies killed."

The sisters believe that victory, in the form of a human life amendment, is inevitable.

"Blacks are much better off today than they were years ago; and the Vietnam War was ended. In both cases, those people used passive means to achieve their aims," said Amy.

"Violence isn't Christian — it's part of the problem," said Lisa.

Lisa, who is president of the Catholic University Human Life Council, said her fellow students do not think her strange for repeatedly being arrested. "No. CU is a very Christian environment. People tell me they admire what I've done," she said.

Lisa Donohoo's winning entry in the poetry contest is entitled, "To Them." It follows.

Oh children, who will never be
I would that you could play with me
And browse among the distant hills
To fill our arms with daffodils.

You met death within a womb
And human flesh became your tomb.
You were killed by human heart
And human hands tore you apart.

You were innocent of fears
And now you cry — but no one hears.
You do not know that Christ was slain
Although you die with him again.

Friends, on the eternal day
Perhaps we'll be allowed to play —
To roam the hills and praise the view —
Until then I will fight for you.

"I still have the same difficulty I had before," Donohoo, an honors graduate of Catholic University, told the judge. "I would like probation, but I can't accept it."

Shuker then sentenced Donohoo to 30 days and ordered that she spend only nights behind bars and be released each day to go to her job as a clerk with an antiabortion political group.

Donohoo, of 13305 Thyme Ct., Germantown, was one of 13 prolife demonstrators arrested on Dec. 28, 1978 at the Hillcrest Abortion Clinic at 3230 Pennsylvania Ave. SE.

The sentence was reduced to 30 days and Miss Donohoo was put on a work release to go to her job as a clerk for the Life Amendment Political Action Committee. She must spend the hours between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. in D.C. Jail.

An honors graduate of the Catholic University of America, the 22-year-old Miss Donohoo has been arrested nearly a dozen times for abortion clinic sit-ins. She has served one night in the Baltimore City jail and a week in the Women's Detention Center in Annapolis, Md. This was her first conviction in the District of Columbia.

The incident for which Miss Donohoo was sentenced occurred on Dec. 28, 1978, the feast of the Holy Innocents. She and 11 others were arrested then. Nine pleaded no contest, but she and Jack Pelikan insisted on a trial. She was convicted by a jury in May and her first sentencing hearing was in July. Shuker postponed sentencing her for a month to give her time to consider whether or not to accept the terms of probation.

Pelikan received a similar 180-day suspended sentence when he accepted the terms of probation.

Before the second sentencing hearing, about 30 supporters of Miss Donohoo picketed in front of the court building, and just before going inside they formed a prayer circle and prayed for her. Her mother, Mrs. Florence Donohoo, told reporters she is proud of her daughter for "having the courage of her convictions."

The entire Donohoo family has been active in the pro-life movement for the past five years and Lisa's brother Harry and her sister Amy have also been arrested numerous times in abortion clinic demonstrations.

END

Anti-Abortion Protesters Arrested at Annapolis Clinic

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — Five abortion opponents were arrested and charged with trespassing after city police accused them of blocking hallways and disrupting business at the Annapolis branch of the Planned Parenthood Association of Maryland, a police spokesman said yesterday.

Police said they did not think the people who were arrested belonged to any organized group.

Each of the five was charged with one count of trespassing and released on his or her own recognizance. Police identified the five Maryland residents as: Joyce Buckler, 34, of Pasadena; Norman Hackland, 39, of Easton; Leazek Syski, 23, of Silver Spring; Jeanne Miller, 19, of Bowie, and Lisa Donohoo, 21, of Germantown.

3 Pro-Lifers Jailed In Anne Arundel

Two Montgomery County women were among three Maryland anti-abortionists given 10-day jail terms yesterday in Anne Arundel County after being found guilty on a trespassing charge stemming from their arrests on July 14.

Catherine O'Connor, 62, of Rockville, Lisa Donohoo, 21, of Germantown, and Norman Hackland, 40, of Easton, were ordered to serve the time in the Anne Arundel County Detention Center after they declined to pay fines imposed in Annapolis by Judge George M. Taylor.

Lisa Donohoo, a congressional staffer who has been active in the right-to-life movement in the Washington area, said she writes to Walker on a regular basis. "I believe he is innocent," she said. "Even if he weren't, I'd still write."

Miss Donohoo said she became interested in helping prisoners after being held in the Anne Arundel County Detention Center in Annapolis, for her part in a sit-in at an abortion clinic.

Four of those arrested were minors. The adults were, in addition to Syski, Pelikan and Mrs. Szewczyk, Lisa Donohoo of Silver Spring; Joyce Buckler, Severna Park, Md.; Sharron Laurienzo, Rockville, Md.; Helen Ann Egan, Potomac, Md.; Diane Bodner, College Park, Md.; and Judith Pohlhause, Washington.

Abortion Sit-In Charges Dismissed by Judge

ANNAPOLIS (UPI) — An Anne Arundel circuit judge has cleared five persons accused of trespassing during an anti-abortion sit-in last month at an Annapolis Planned Parenthood clinic.

Judge Robert S. Hiese dismissed the charges last week because the five had been charged with trespassing on the property of a public agency. The sit-in and alleged trespassing actually occurred on private property.

Hiese dismissed charges aganst Joyce A. Buckler, 32, of Pasadena; Jeanne M. Miller, 19, of Rockville; Lisa Donohoo, 21, of Germantown; Leszek S. Syski, 23, of Bethesda and Norman Hackland, 34, of Easton.

Jeanne Miller

First Rescue

Jeanne Miller

Full Name: Jeanne Miller Gaetano

- Participated in the First Rescue at age 15
- Possibly the rescuer who stayed until the last moment prior to arrests beginning, refusing to give the police her name
- At age 18, became one of the first rescuers to spend time in prison; was put in solitary confinement for refusing to submit to an internal search
- Helped found the Pro-Life Nonviolent Action Project (PNAP)
- Organized the first national series of pro-life sit-ins in the US
- Became a dedicated pro-lifer at age 13
- Skipped 8th and 11th grade
- Alumnus of Phillips Exeter Academy
- Attended Yale, but dropped out to do more protests
- Married fellow rescuer David Gaetano
- At age 20, spent a night in prison with her 6 month old son, John Paul

PLEASE JOIN US HELP PREVENT ABORTIONS
ABORTION CLINIC KILL FOR CASH
ABORTION & CHILD ABUSE - GOING UP UP UP UP
ABORTION CLINIC KILLING FOR CASH
ABORTION PAINFUL DEATH FOR THE BABY
DEAD CHILD

ANOTHER PROTESTOR, JEANNE MILLER, is carried from abortion center by police amid cluster of sign-carrying pickets. Spread of non-violent protest is being heralded by pro-lifers as effective way to educate community to violence being performed inside the abortion places.

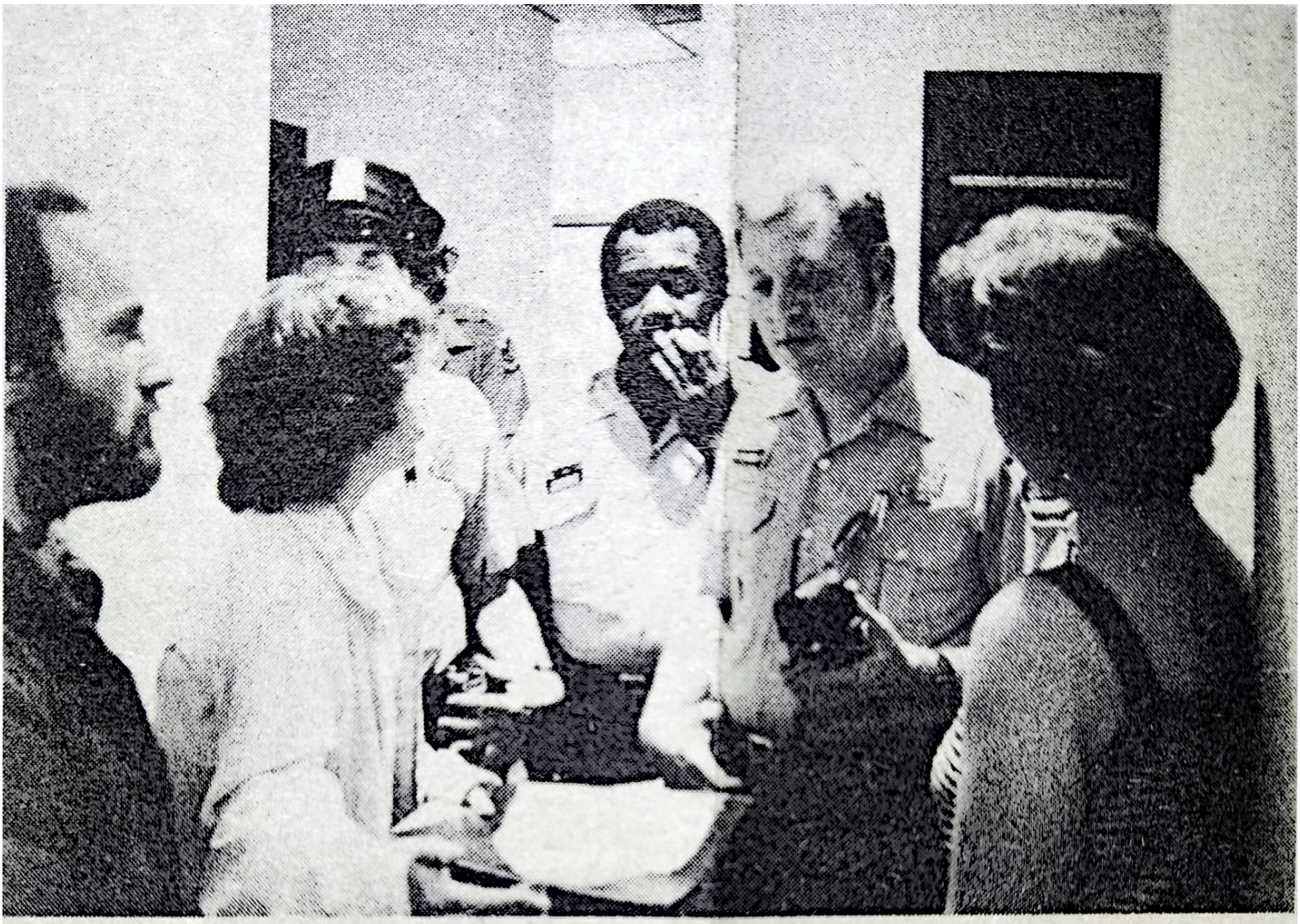
Abortion
X: Publishing

21 AUG , 77

ANTI-ABORTION PROTEST IN D.C.

—Associated Press

Police remove a demonstrator from an anti-abortion rally yesterday after she and other demonstrators entered a D.C. abortion clinic and refused to leave. A total of six protesters were arrested.



Inside Jeanne Miller tells police officers she and her companions cannot leave voluntarily. Dave Gaetano (left) and Kathy Macdonald (right) also remained inside.

Parents Protest Abortion, Take Baby to Va. Jail

By Kerry Dougherty
Washington Post Staff Writer

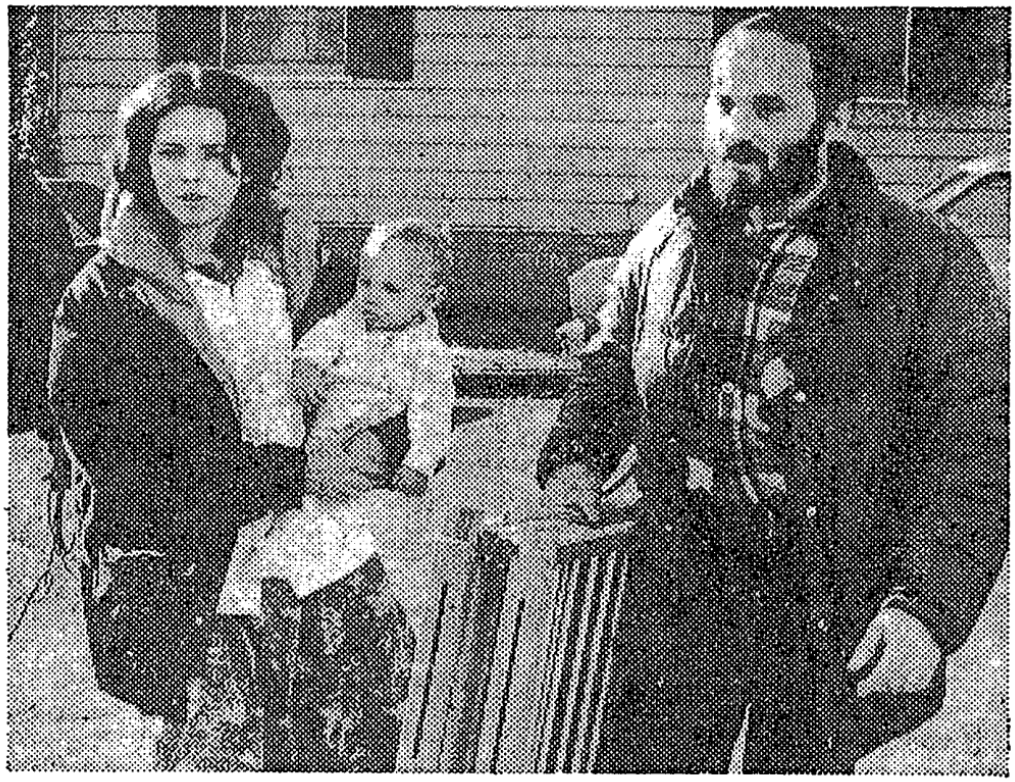
Seven years ago, when she was 13, Jeanne Gaetano first heard of abortions. It became her cause. She began demonstrating against abortion clinics at 15, met her husband in a protest at 17, and served her first prison sentence for a protest sit-in at 18.

Yesterday 20-year-old Gaetano, who dropped out of college to devote more time to the protests, walked in the Alexandria city jail, taking her 7-month old son behind bars with her to serve a 24-hour sentence she received as a result of one of her almost weekly demonstrations.

"He was with us when we were arrested," she said as she and her husband moved toward the jail with their blue-eye boy wrapped in a white, terry cloth jump suit. The child thus became the first infant to be housed in the city's 155-year-old white brick jail house.

The Gaetanos, who live in suburban Seabrook, had refused to enter the jail to serve their sentence without the child, who is being breast-fed. "We were not about to let the law decide when to wean him," said David, as he pushed a collapsible playpen into the jail behind his wife and son.

Yesterday's events, which attracted three television crews and wire service reporters to the jail, were as much a testimony to the durability of the anti-abortion movement in the Washington area as it was to the commitment of the Gaetanos. The protests like the one in which they were arrested in September 1979 have continued on an almost weekly basis at abortions clinics throughout the area. Their movement rarely attracts much attention these days, but it can count on support from a core of dedicated followers who say they will not compromise on the issue.



By James A. Parcell—The Washington Post
Antiabortionists Jeanne and David Gaetano and son enter Alexandria city jail Saturday.

"It was legal to kill Jews in Germany, too," said David slowly as he tugged his reddish beard and explained the night before why he was going to jail. "The Nuremburg trials have proved that that was no defense, the action was murder, just as abortions being performed today are murder."

Gaetano, who will be 30 today, said he regreted having to go to jail this weekend because it's the eve of the general elections and he has been active in the U.S. Senate campaign of Democrat Edward T. Conroy, who also is op-

See MOTHER, B2, Col. 2

Anti-Abortionist Taking Son to Jail

By Christopher P. Winner
Washington Star Staff Writer

Cradling her 6-month-old baby, Jeanne Gaetano already says she will think of Nov. 1 as the night little John Paul spent in jail. "After all," she intones gently, "we were arrested together."

Gaetano, a 20-year-old anti-abortionist arrested last year for blocking the entrance to an Alexandria abortion clinic, yesterday won the right to keep custody of her son — named after Pope John Paul II — when she enters the city's jail next Saturday to serve a one-day trespassing sentence.

The unusual decision by Sheriff Michael E. Norris ended weeks of lively discussion between Gaetano's attorney, John Brandt, and local prosecutors after the woman said she would not be separated from her baby.

"There's no way I'm going to jail without him," said the Seabrook, Md., resident. "They will never separate us under any circumstances."

Norris, who insisted yesterday he had no objection in principle to the arrangement, said the decision was "an exception, but not, I hope, a precedent." He cited overcrowded conditions in the jail as his main preoccupation.

"She is only staying for one night," he said, "and she is still breast-feeding the child."

Norris admitted the jail had previously housed pregnant women on "several occasions," but could not remember the last time a mother and child had been held together. "Maybe for a few hours," he said, "but not overnight."

He said officials were making arrangements to allow Gaetano whatever she needed to make John Paul confortable.

"Anything she needs to make him confortable, including formula and blankets, she will be allowed to bring in," he said.

See TRESPASSER, D-2

The Washington Star Bob Grieser

Jeanne Gaetano holds her 6-month-old baby, John Paul, who will spend the night with her in Alexandria jail as she serves a sentence.

Foes of Abortion Sit In to 'Save Lives'

By Megan Rosenfeld
Washington Post Staff Writer

Jeanne Miller, 18, will be starting her sophomore year at Yale University this month — if she doesn't decide to go to jail.

Her best friend from Bowie High School, Diane Bodner, 19, will go back to the University of Maryland — unless she too chooses being in custody over paying a $500 fine for disobeying a federal judge's order not to stage a sit-in in a Fairfax County abortion clinic.

Both young women have been arrested and jailed before. While others their age are worrying about boyfriends, clothes or jobs, they worry about fetuses, nuclear war, lobbying legislatures and "stopping the killing."

The two friends are part of what they claim is a growing movement of antiabortion protestors involved in "nonviolent direct action"—the intellectual descendants, they say, of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Berrigan brothers. Between 300 and 500 people, mostly young and educated, are involved in these sit-ins at abortion clinics in 15 states, according to National Right to Life Committee estimates. The committee held a workshop on nonviolent protest at its last convention.

For no discernible reason, the Washington area has been the scene of more sit-ins than any other place in the nation. Since the country's first antiabortion sit-in at the Sigma Reproductive Health Center in Rockville, in 1975, there have been more than a dozen in the Washington area, including the six at the Northern Virginia Women's Medical Center in Fairfax,

See ABORTION, A10, Col. 1

Abortion Protesters Continue Sit-Ins to 'Save Lives'

ABORTION, From A1

where Miller's and Bodner's latest arrests occurred.

The "Pro-Life" versus "Pro-Choice" battle promises to be a long one, waged for years to come in courts and capitol buildings as well as in front-line skirmishes such as the Fairfax incidents.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decided in 1973 that abortions in the first three months of pregnancy should be a question for a woman and her doctor to decide—an event commemorated in metal bracelets saying "January 22, 1973" that both Bodner and Miller wear—groups such as the 11 million-member Right to Life Committee have been trying to counter it. As the fight intensifies over questions of Medicaid funding, parental permission, and constitutional amendments, so do the emotions.

"Pro-Choice" spokeswomen say that "nonviolent" sit-ins are not nonviolent at all; that in fact they rupture a woman's right to privacy and, as one put it, attack her "personhood" as surely as if she had been smacked in the face.

"Pro-Life" militants contend that abortion is murder, and have decided that the only course acceptable to their consciences is to "place our bodies between the (pregnant) women and the room where abortions are performed," as 22-year-old law student Burke Balch phrased it.

Though participants say the sit-ins grow spontaneously from discussions among members of an affinity group of Pro-Lifers, they are carefully organized in the sense that people are appointed to be media contacts, others to be arrested, and others to carry signs, distribute literature or sing. Some people, called counselors, "inform the women of alternatives available to them, that we love them and support them," Bodner said.

During the first part of the July 27 contempt hearing in which federal Judge J. Calvitt Clarke ordered Miller and Bodner and their codefendants, David Gaetano, 27, and Mary Beth McKernan, 18, to pay the fine or go to jail in 30 days, a woman sitting in the front row got up.

Pregnant and carrying an infant under one arm, she walked slowly up to the rail that separates the participants from the audience. Almost reverentially, she placed a hand on the shoulder of one of the protester's. Then she ritually touched the next.

As she placed her hand on the third, a female marshal asked her to stop. She shrugged off the marshal's restraining arm. The marshal then led her firmly to the door, and she began screaming something unintelligible. She continued to scream as she left the courtroom, and her screams echoed through the closed door until she left the building.

Neither Miller nor Bodner remembers exactly when she knew she was against abortion. "I remember hearing about the (1973) Supreme Court decision on the radio and thinking, 'Oh, that's dumb, they just legalized murder,'" said Bodner.

The two met in ninth grade gym class five years ago. Miller was a new student and Bodner took it upon herself to make friends. She noticed Miller's metal Right to Life bracelet and asked her what it was; finding they shared views on abortion helped get the friendship started.

Miller's involvement began even earlier. She chose to live with her father in Bowie after her parents separated; her four brothers and sisters moved with her mother to Ocean City. She spent half a year in New York City when she was 12, living with Jewish relatives and going to a Catholic school.

"My father used to take me to anti-war marches to observe," she said. "We were going to the Kenneth Clark lectures at the Smithsonian and they were on Saturdays, like most of the marches. My father is very big on education. He'd take us fossil hunting, or to see buildings torn down, to the theafer . . . his whole idea was to be open to other ideas.

"When I was 13 I asked him for some books about abortion. He said, 'You already know you're against it, why don't you read books on the other side?'" So she read Alan Guttmacher and Paul Ehrlich, and found, she said, that reading works by these population control advocates horrified her.

For a time Miller's father helped run the Prince George's County Right to Life chapter out of his basement. He is a stockbroker, she said.

Miller skipped the eighth and 11th grades, then spent an extra year of high school in New Hampshire at Phillips Exeter Academy, before entering Yale. She has worked as a laboratory technician in Rockville for the last three summers.

Both women reflect a seriousness of purpose that is unusual at their ages.

One day in August 1974, Bodner wanted to find Miller, whom she had not seen for a while. "I figured she'd be at the Senate Subcommittee (on Constitutional Amendments) hearings," Bodner said, as though she were talking about the local fast-food teen hangout. As it happened, she looked in the newspaper to see where the subcommittee was meeting, took a bus from Bowie to the Capitol, found the hearing and her friend.

Abortion protest has taken up an increasingly large chunk of their lives, as fellow protesters make up their social as well as political friends. Neither has a fixed address right now. Bodner is living with a Pro-Life organizer; Miller is "staying with friends" until she goes back to school. Neither is sure of anything in the future—profession, marriage, goals—other than a certainty that they will participate in more sit-ins.

The way they see it, the purpose of the sit-ins is this: that while they are at the clinic, abortions are not being performed. Thus they are "saving lives."

The protesters compare Judge Clarke to judges in Nazi Germany who condoned the slaughter of Jews. "Everything that happened in Nazi Germany was legal," Miller said.

"A lot of the women they're scaring the hell out of are there because they're very young, or have a medical problem like diabetes or are carrying a terminally diseased fetus—you have no way of knowing why a woman is there just by looking at her," said Davida Perry of the Washington-based Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, an association of church groups supporting the Supreme Court decision. "It doesn't occur to them that maybe a woman who's there was raped, or that they've already been through a great deal of torment. They're doing violence to her personhood. They see her as a symbol, and not as an individual. That's more than I can stomach."

A 26-year-old government employe who was waiting to have an abortion when Miller, Bodner and the others sat in at the Northern Virginia Women's Medical Center on July 20 said the demonstration was an invasion of her privacy.

"If I go to the doctor for a cold I don't expect to have a Christian Scientist there in the office saying 'Don't take pills,'" she said.

"I can understand their point of view," she added. "But I don't see why they should try to impose it on other people."

"By being here they may provoke violence," said Sharon McCann, director of the clinic. "I've had to restrain boyfriends; they get so angry at these people invading their privacy. One guy even put his feet through a glass coffee table, he was so mad."

Bodner and Miller said their parents would prefer them not to be arrested. "My parents said, 'It's your choice, but we don't have to support you,'" said Bodner, who has supported herself for a year by working as a waitress.

"The thing that's hard to justify to ourselves", Miller said, "is the two and half years when we weren't doing sit-ins."

WASHINGTON (NC) — A woman waiting her turn in an abortion clinic waiting room changed her mind as a result of a pro-life demonstration which resulted in 12 arrests, according to one of the demonstrators. Participants in the July 23 demonstrations at two clinics located in the same downtown Washington office building called the sit-ins "entirely successful" because of the prospective patient's change of heart. "It's worth our spending years in jail whenever we can show people the light on this issue," said Jeanne Miller of Bowie, Md., one of the protest organizers.

One of the seven arrested at the New York sit-in, Jeanne Miller, defended the group's activities against charges by pro-abortion spokesmen that the sit-ins are related to fire-bombings of abortion clinics.

"Such trumped-up charges by the financially lucrative abortion industry are pure fabrication," said Miss Miller, 17, a student at Yale.

"We have no alliance with or sympathy for any arsonists. We reject all violence, including the savagery imposed upon the unborn child at abortion facilities," she continued.

22-7-28-78

FOUR PRO-LIFERS FACING JAIL IN CONTEMPT OF COURT CASE (450)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (NC) — Four pro-lifers say they will go to prison rather than pay $500 fines imposed upon them by a federal judge who found them in contempt of court for disobeying his order barring sit-ins at a Fairfax, Va., abortion clinic.

U.S. District Judge J. Calvitt Clarke ordered the four to pay the fines within 30 days or face 60 days in prison for violating the injunction. The four, David Gaetano, 27, of Wheaton, Md.; Jeanne Miller, 18, a Yale student whose home is in Bowie, Md.; Diane Bodner of College Park, Md.; and Mary Beth McKernan, 18, of Arlington, Va., were also put on probation for 90 days.

Judge Clarke said he was distressed at the prospect of having to send what he called "children" to jail, and was particularly harsh with unknown parties who, he said, he suspects put the four up to their latest sit-in.

The group was arrested July 20 at the Fairfax abortion clinic, one month after Judge Clarke issued the injunction at the request of the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Northern Virginia Women's Medical Center.

About 25 people picketed outside the Alexandria federal court during the three-hour hearing on July 27. Eleven pro-lifers named in the June 22 injunction were all summoned to court by the ACLU to show cause why they should not be held in contempt, but proceedings against those who had not participated in the latest sit-in were dropped.

Judge Clarke insisted that since the U.S. Supreme Court has put its approval on abortion, the defendants have no right to interfere with abortion clinic operations. "This has got to stop," the judge said. "Whether you like it or not, this is the law."

The four found in contempt compared Judge Clarke's position to that of Nazi officials who, during post-war trials, claimed they were merely following orders.

Miss Miller, who has been jailed in Connecticut for abortion clinic sit-ins, said later that the judge had cut her off at a crucial point.

She told the judge that she was inspired to sit in at the clinic by an infant sitting in the courtroom with her mother. The child's mother planned to have an abortion, but was persuaded to change her mind by pro-life demonstrators.

"A year ago, she was an hour away from death. If it weren't for a sit-in that many of us here took part in, she'd be dead," Miss Miller said. "The judge cut me off at that point," she said.

8 - 4/6/78

FOUR CHOOSE JAIL ON ABORTION CLINIC SIT-IN CONVICTIONS (200)

NEW LONDON, Conn. (NC) — Insisting on "the dignity and worth of each human life," four pro-lifers arrested for sitting-in at an abortion clinic began serving jail sentences April 3.

The four, John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe of Windsor, Conn.; Leszek Syski of Silver Spring, Md.; Burke Balch of New York; and Jeanne Miller of New Haven, chose jail rather than pay $75 fines imposed on them recently for their convictions on criminal trespass charges.

The four were arrested along with Linda Kuvalanka of Oakdale, Conn., and June O'Donnell of Enfield, Conn., for sitting-in last October at a Planned Parenthood clinic. Mrs. Kuvalanka and Mrs. O'Donnell said they would pay the fines because family obligations kept them from voluntarily going to prison.

Miss Miller, 18, a freshman at Yale, was put into solitary confinement at the Niantic (Conn.) Correctional Center for Women after refusing to submit to an internal search.

The three men were sent to the Montville (Conn.) Correctional Center. All four pro-lifers are scheduled to serve up to nine days, depending on whether or not they engage in work while imprisoned.

Those fined by the court were Mrs. Linda Kuvalanka of Oakdale; John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe of Windsor; Burke Balch, a student at New York University Law School; Jeanne Miller, a student at Yale University; Mrs. June O'Donnell of Enfield; and Leszek Syski of Silver Spring, Md.

The stay in jail could have been as little as four days or as much as eight days, depending on whether the four chose to work during their incarceration.

Choosing jail instead of the fine were John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe of Windsor, Leszek Syski of Silver Spring, Md., Jeanne Miller of New Haven and Thomas Balch of New York.

Each of the five was charged with one count of trespassing and released on his or her own recognizance. Police identified the five Maryland residents as: Joyce Buckler, 34, of Pasedena; Norman Hackland, 39, of Easton; Leazek Syski, 23, of Silver Spring; Jeanne Miller, 19, of Bowie, and Lisa Donohoo, 21, of Germantown.

It was the second time in two months that antiabortion protesters were arrested at the Annapolis clinic. Seven persons were carried out of the clinic March 4 and charged with trespassing at the clinic, which opened last June.

PRO-LIFERS DEFY FEDERAL COURT INJUNCTION, HOLD SIT-IN (250)

FAIRFAX, Va. (NC) — Four pro-life activists have defied a federal court injunction by holding a sit-in at a Fairfax, Va., abortion clinic on July 20.

Following the arrests of the four, David Gaetano of Wheaton, Md.; Jeanne Miller of New Haven, Conn.; Diane Bodner of College Park, Md.; and Mary Beth McKernan of Arlington, Va., another pro-life activist charged the American Civil Liberties Union with orchestrating police implementation of the federal court order.

Mary Ann Kreitzer of Alexandria, Va., who has herself been arrested three times at abortion clinic sit-ins, said that Fairfax County police asked ACLU attorneys, one of whom was identified as Phil Hirschkop of Alexandria, for their interpretation of the court order.

Hirschkop denied telling the police how to interpet the injunction.

Police Sgt. L.A. Biddle denied that he asked the ACLU for its interpetation of the injunction. "They called me," Biddle said, "and they were telling me their interpetation, and I said mine was different." He said that after consultation, his and the ACLU's interpretation of the injunction were "pretty close to the same."

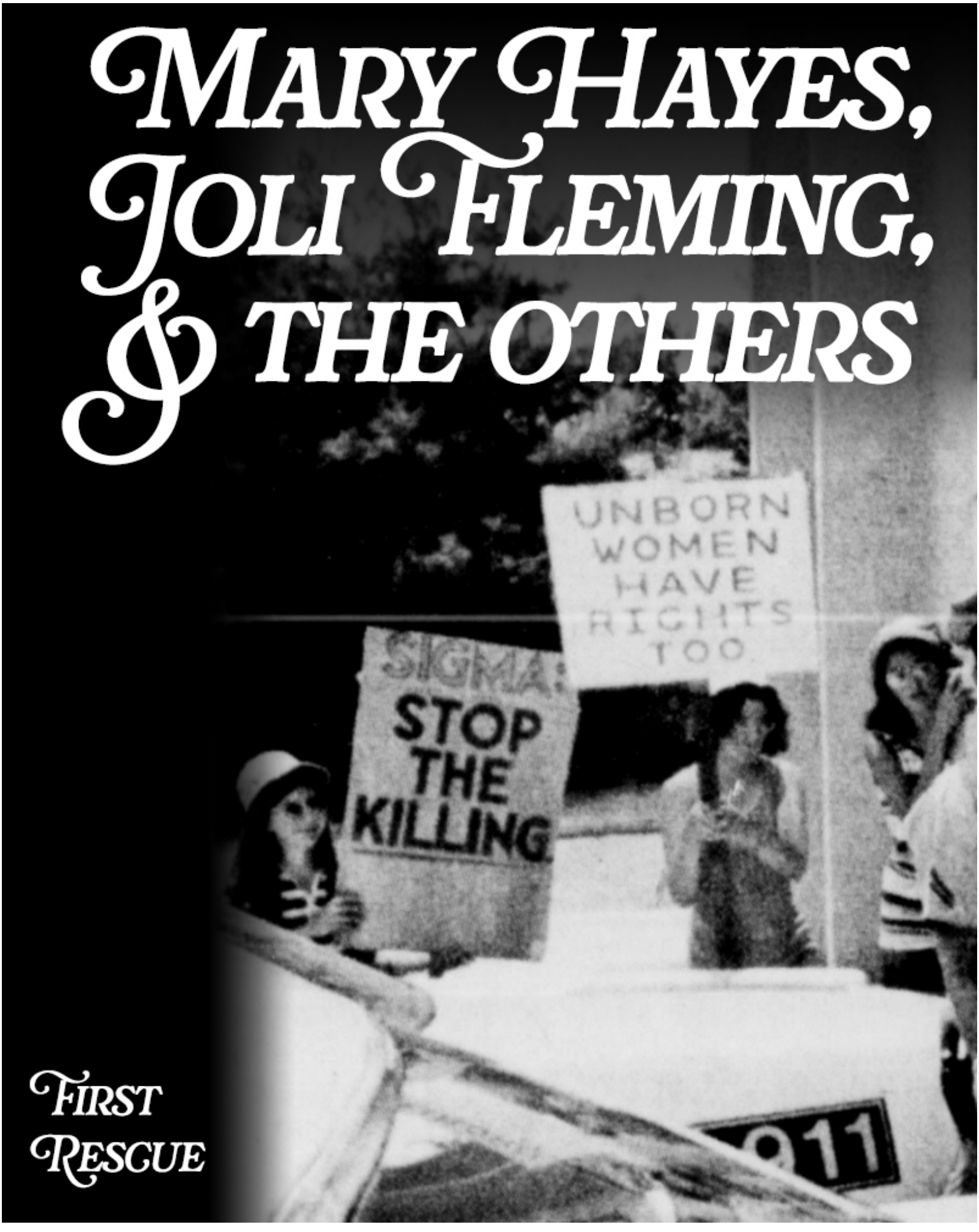
The injunction was handed by U.S. District Judge J. Calvitt Clarke in June. It barred 11 pro-lifers by name and others acting in concert with them from entering the Fairfax abortion clinic.

By defying the judge's ruling, the four — who were charged with trespass and released in their own recognizance — are subject to fines and imprisonment.

For the woman who is determined, nothing they do at the clinic will do more than delay. But (while I don't remember where it happened or where I recently read it) at this moment somewhere in the United States a baby is alive who would have been killed but for those who, like Jeanne Gaetano, have risked jail to protest at abortion clinics the taking of human life.

Stephen Kosciesza
Silver Spring, Md.

Mary Hayes, Joli Fleming, & the Others



First Rescue

Mary Hayes

Full Name: Mary Eva Hayes

- Arrested, tried, and convicted at First Rescue
- From Silver Springs, Maryland
- Age 24 at time of Sigma Seven Sit-In
- Likely a mother; did not hold baby at sit-in
- Described by friends as quiet & shy

Joli Fleming

Full Name: Jo Linda Fleming

- Helped train rescuers before Sigma Seven Sit-In
- Assisted in drafting the logistical plan for the sit-in
- Was not arrested at the First Rescue
- Likely a mother at the time
- A "power team" with Chris Mooney
- Co-founder of Pregnancy Aid Center in Greenbelt, MD
- Protested the Vietnam War in college
- Studied and taught in the art department at Montgomery College in Rockville, MD
- Earned her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, graduated with honors
- Alumnus of American Univerity
- Currently a painter and gallery curator; exhibited at Georgetown University and the Smithsonian
- Friends remember her "great smile"

The Other Rescuer Ladies

According to the official police report of the Sigma Seven Sit-In, 13-14 women total occupied the abortion facility. But a pro-life publication from the time documents that there were 12 women total; 8 were mothers, and 3 held their babies during the sit-in.

I learned the name of one of the ladies who sat-in but was not arrested; I am uncertain of the identities of the other 4-6 women. 4 of these ladies were probably mothers at the time, and at least one held her baby during the sit-in.

Rescue is their legacy, too.

The Men & Supporting Women

The organizers of the Sigma Seven Sit-In agreed that to push back against stereotypes, only women would sit-in while men would protest outside the abortion facility. The men picketed with signs, handed out literature, and sidewalk counseled to the people entering the facility. Some of these men were the husbands of the women performing the sit-in; others were supporters. Some women also chose to protest outside and not sit-in. These people included members of the National Youth Pro-Life Coalition and new members of Women Opposing Massacre and Brutality, as well as locals who regularly picketed the facility.

Jo Fleming

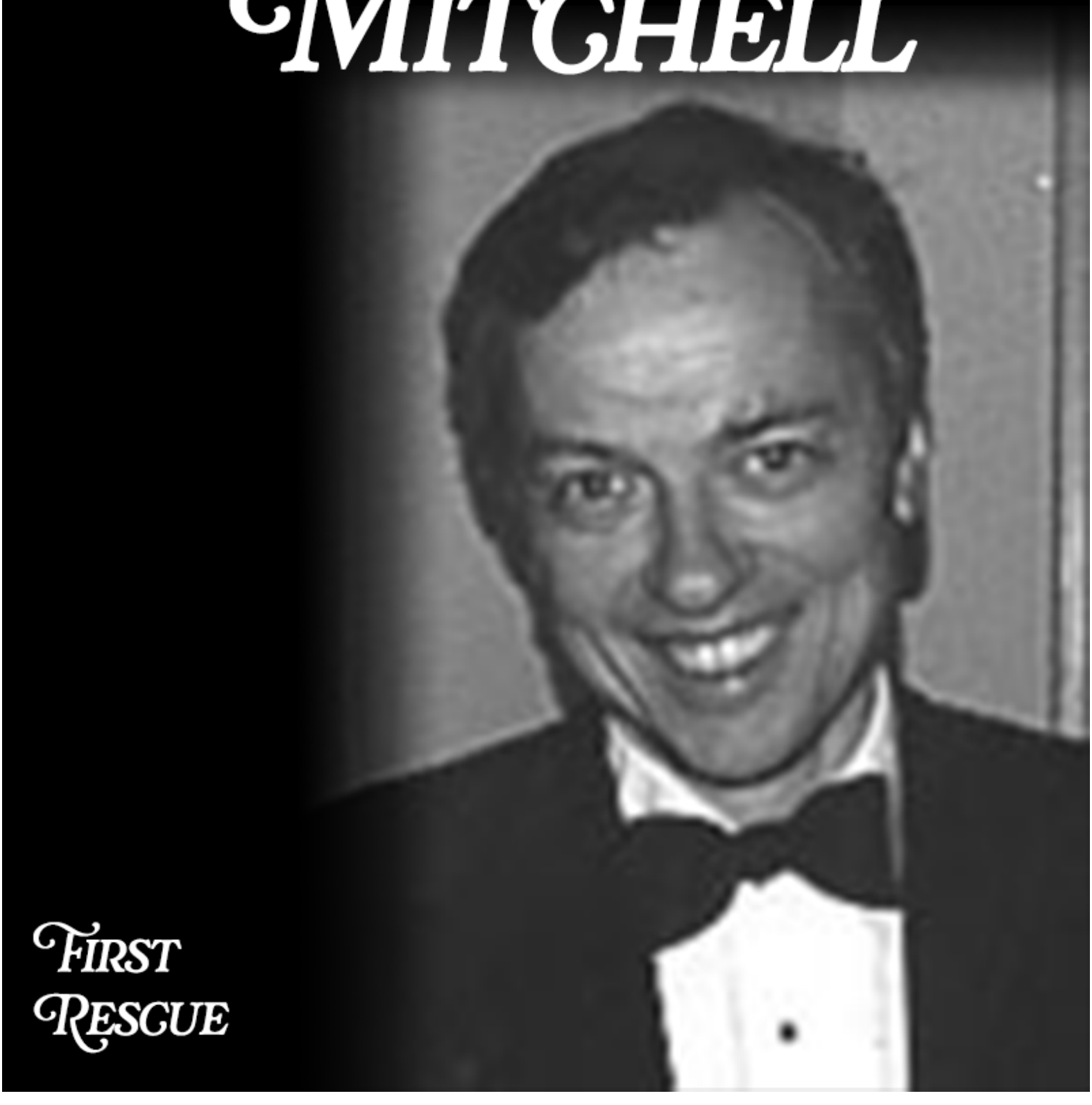
Abstract Environmental Landscape Painter and Gallery Curator

local police. Ultimately, the group decided that only women should be involved in the sit-in, limiting the men to picketing and supporting roles outside. "You had to get across something that would break the stereotype of misogynistic males who were trying to control women," says Balch. "We were trying to get people to stop and listen, and to rethink."

[redacted]

doors from the waiting area to the procedure rooms. Six women, including Chris Mooney, were arrested. As they waited for the police, they sang songs and prayed; others outside passed out literature and tried to talk to women going into the clinic. John Meiklejohn, a Montgomery

Gerard Mitchell



First Rescue

Gerard Mitchell

Full Name: Gerard E. Mitchell, JD

- Served pro-bono as the lawyer for the Sigma Seven
- ranked by SuperLawyers among the top 100 lawyers in Washington
- Best Lawyers in America named him Medical Malpractice Lawyer of the Year in 2010 and 2015 in the Washington D.C. Area
- Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers
- Former President of the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.
- Washington, DC TLA's Lawyer of the Year, 1984
- President of the Youth Leadership Foundation
- Alumnus of Georgetown University and the University of Virginia School of Law
- Has nine children

Obscure Law Bars Abortion Referral

Washington — (RNS) — A little-noted Maryland law is being invoked to prevent physicians from referring women to Washington hospitals for abortions.

Under the same law, the D.C. Transit Company, which has routes in suburban Maryland as well as the District of Columbia and Virginia has been compelled to remove posters advertising an abortion referral service from its buses.

The law, passed in 1970, states that nothing "whatsoever" may be done in Maryland to aid in terminating a pregnancy except in a hospital accredited by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Hospitals and licensed by the State Board of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Gerard Mitchell, assistant to the state's attorney of Montgomery County, Md., which is adjacent to the District, advised the transit company that the ads violated Maryland law. He acted after receiving a notice from State Attorney General Francis Burdh.

Joseph Mauro, chairman of a Knights of Columbus anti-abortion committee, said the group would next move against physicians.

District of Columbia hospitals are not licensed by Maryland, Mauro said, and a physician or anyone else in Maryland who refers a woman to a Washington hospital for an abortion is violating the state law.

The committee is also attempting to have abortion service ads banned from county newspapers, the University of Maryland student paper and radio and television.